G11B 20/04

[12] 发明专利申请公开说明书

[21] 申请号 00802033.7

[43]公开日 2001年11月14日

[11]公开号 CN 1322358A

[22]申请日 2000.7.27 [21]申请号 00802033.7

[30]优先权

[32]1999.7.27 [33]US [31]60/146,101

[32]1999. 8. 17 [33] US [31]60/149,515

[32]2000.6.12 [33]US [31]09/592,599

[86]健康申请 PCT/KR00/00821 2000.7.27

[87]国际公布 W001/08151 英 2001.2.1

[85]进入国家阶段日期 2001.5.22

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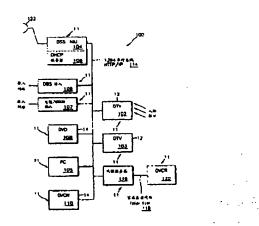
[74]专利代理机构 柳沈知识产权律师事务所 代理人 吕晓章

权利要求书 4 页 说明书 48 页 附图页数 13 页

[54] 发明名称 家庭网络设备信息体系结构

[57] 擠要

一种用于对用户提供发现和控制当前连接到一网络的各个设备的用户接口的方法和系统,能使至少一个所述设备执行包括下列步骤的步骤:(a)从当前连接到网络的一个或多个设备中获取信息,该信息包括设备信息;和(b)至少根据所获取的信息生成用户接口描述文件,该用户接口描述文件包括与当前连接到网络的每一个设备的设备信息相关联的一参考文件,因此该参考文件包括至少一个到包含在当前连接到网络的各个设备中的信息的链路。这样,可以利用用户接口描述文件中的参考文件来显示用户接口,该用户接口 用于控制当前连接到网络的各个设备。



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Home network device information architecture

Patent number:

CN1322358

Publication date:

2001-11-14

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Classification:

- international:

H04L12/24; H04L12/28; H04L29/06; H04L12/64; H04L29/08;

H04L12/24; H04L12/28; H04L29/06; H04L12/64; H04L29/08;

(IPC1-7): G11B20/04

- european:

H04L12/24A7; H04L12/24B3; H04L12/24B4; H04L12/24F3;

H04L12/28H1; H04L29/06

Application number: CN20000802033 20000727

Priority number(s): US19990146101P 19990727; US19990149515P 19990817;

US20000592599 20000612

Also published as:

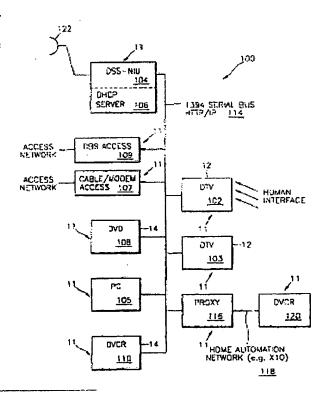
WO0108151 (A1)

EP1116229 (A1) CA2345527 (A1)

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Abstract not available for CN1322358 Abstract of corresponding document: WO0108151

A method and system for providing a user interface for a user to discover and control devices that are currently connected to a network, such that at least one of the devices performs steps including: (a) obtaining information from one or more of the devices currently connected to the network, the information including device information; and (b) generating a user interface description based at least on the obtained information, the user interface description including a reference associated with the device information of each of the devices currently connected to the network, such that the reference includes at least one link to information contained in the devices currently connected to the network. As such, a user interface can be displayed using the references in the user interface description, for controlling the devices currently connected to the network.



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权利要求书

- 1. 一种用于提供控制当前连接到一网络的各个设备的用户接口的方法,该方法包括下列步骤;
- (a)从当前连接到所述网络的一个或多个设备中获取信息,所述信息包括设备信息;和
- (b)至少根据所述获取的信息生成用户接口描述文件,该用户接口描述 文件包括与当前连接到所述网络的所述各个设备中的每一个设备的设备信息 相关联的一参考文件,因此该参考文件包括至少一个到包含在当前连接到所 述网络的所述设备中的信息的链路。

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- 2. 如权利要求 1 所述的方法,其中,所述步骤(b)还包括步骤:生成所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件中的所述参考文件提供至少对每个相应设备中的信息的访问。
- 3. 如权利要求 1 所述的方法,其中,所述步骤(b)还包括步骤:根据从每一个设备中获取的信息生成所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件还包括相应于每一个设备的设备数据。
 - 4. 如权利要求 1 所述的方法,其中,所述生成用户接口描述文件的步骤(b)还包括步骤:使一超文本链路与当前连接到所述网络的所述各个设备中的每一个设备的设备信息相关联。
- 5. 如权利要求 1 所述的方法,其中,每个设备中的所述信息包括包含 在该设备中的 HTML 页。
 - 6. 如权利要求 1 所述的方法,其中,每个设备中的所述设备信息包括设备标识信息。
- 7. 如权利要求 1 所述的方法,其中,每个设备中的所述设备信息包括用于使用户与设备交互的用户控制接口描述文件。
 - 8. 如权利要求 7 所述的方法,其中,所述步骤(b)还包括步骤:生成所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件中的每一个参考文件是针对每一个相应设备中的至少用户控制接口描述文件的。
- 9. 如权利要求 7 所述的方法,其中,所述步骤(b)还包括步骤:根据从 30 每一个设备中获取的信息生成所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件。



备中的用户控制接口描述文件的参考。

- 10. 一种用于执行一服务的网络系统,包括:
- 一物理层,其中该物理层提供可以由各设备用来相互通信的通信媒体; 连接到该物理层的一个或多个设备,每个设备存储包括设备信息的信

5 息;

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在至少一个设备中的代理程序,该代理程序适用于:

- (a)从当前连接到所述网络的一个或多个设备中获取信息,所述信息包括设备信息,和
- (b)至少根据所获取的信息生成一用户接口描述文件,该用户接口描述 10 文件包括与当前连接到所述网络的所述各个设备中的每一个设备的设备信息 相关联的一参考文件,以使该参考文件包括至少一个到包含在当前连接到所 述网络的所述各个设备中的信息的链路。
 - 11. 如权利要求 10 所述的网络系统,其中,所述代理程序生成所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件中的所述参考文件提供至少对每个相应设备中的信息的访问。
 - 12. 如权利要求 10 所述的网络系统,其中,所述代理程序根据从每一个设备中获取的信息生成所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件还包括相应于每一个设备的设备数据。
- 13. 如权利要求 10 所述的网络系统,其中,所述代理程序还使所述用 20 户接口描述文件中的一超文本链路与当前连接到所述网络的所述各个设备中的每一个设备的设备信息相关联。
 - 14. 如权利要求 10 所述的网络系统,其中,每个设备中的所述信息包括包含在该设备中的 HTML 页。
- 15. 如权利要求 10 所述的网络系统,其中,每个设备中的所述设备信
 25 息包括设备标识信息。
 - 16.如权利要求 10 所述的网络系统,其中,每个设备中的所述设备信息包括用于使用户与设备交互的用户控制接口描述文件。
- 17. 如权利要求 16 所述的网络系统,其中,所述代理程序生成所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件中的每一个参考文件是针对每 30 一个相应设备中的至少用户控制接口描述文件的。
 - 18. 如权利要求 16 所述的网络系统,其中,所述代理程序根据从每一



个设备中获取的信息生成所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件还包括相应于每一个设备的设备数据,该设备数据提供对于每一个设备中的用户控制接口描述文件的参考。

- 19. 如权利要求 10 所述的网络系统,还包括用于通过下列方式生成至少一个用户接口的装置:利用一用户接口描述文件中的每一个参考文件来访问每一个相应设备中的信息,并且利用每一个设备中的被访问信息来生成包括相应于每一个设备的设备数据的用户接口。
 - 20. 一种用于执行一服务的网络系统,包括:

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- 一物理层,其中该物理层提供可以由各设备用来相互通信的通信媒体; 连接到该物理层的多种设备,所述多种设备中的一个或多个设备存储包括设备信息的信息,并且,所述一个或多个多种设备中的每一个设备都包括 一代理程序,该代理程序适用于:
- (a)从当前连接到网络的一个或多个设备中获取信息,所述信息包括设备信息:
- (b)至少根据所获取的信息生成一用户接口描述文件,该用户接口描述 文件包括与当前连接到所述网络的所述各个设备中的每一个设备的设备信息 相关的一参考文件,以使该参考文件包括至少一个到包含在当前连接到所述 网络的所述各个设备中的信息的链路。
- 21. 如权利要求 20 所述的网络系统,其中,每一个代理程序生成一用 20 户接口描述文件,以使该用户接口描述文件中的所述参考文件提供至少对每 个相应设备中的信息的访问。
 - 22. 如权利要求 20 所述的网络系统,其中,每一个代理程序根据从每一个设备中获取的信息生成一用户接口描述文件,以使该用户接口描述文件还包括相应于每一个设备的设备数据。
- 23 如权利要求 20 所述的网络系统,其中,每一个代理程序还使一用 户接口描述文件中的一超文本链路与当前连接到所述网络的所述各个设备中 的每一个设备的设备信息相关联。
 - 24. 如权利要求 20 所述的网络系统,其中,每个设备中的所述信息包括包含在该设备中的 HTML 页。
- 30 25. 如权利要求 20 所述的网络系统,其中,每个设备中的所述设备信息。



26. 如权利要求 20 所述的网络系统,其中,每个设备中的所述设备信息包括用于使用户与设备交互的用户控制接口描述文件。

27. 如权利要求 26 所述的网络系统,其中,每一个代理程序生成所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件中的每一个参考文件是针对每一个相应设备中的至少用户控制接口描述文件的。

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28. 如权利要求 26 所述的网络系统,其中,每一个代理程序根据从每一个设备中获取的信息生成所述用户接口描述文件,以使所述用户接口描述文件还包括相应于每一个设备的设备数据,该设备数据提供对于每一个设备中的用户控制接口描述文件的参考。

明 书 说

家庭网络设备信息体系结构

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技术领域

本发明涉及网络领域,尤其涉及具有与其相连的多媒体设备的家庭网 络。

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<对相关内容的交叉引用>

本申请人申明受益于 1999 年 7 月 27 日提交的题为《网络体系结构 (Network Architecture)》的美国临时申请 No. 60/146,101 以及 1999 年 8 月 17 日提交的题为《包含在家庭网络顶层用户接口规范中的外部万维网服务器 (External Web Server Included in Home Network Top-Level User Interface Description)》的美国临时申请 No. 60/149,515, 这两个申请在此被引用为参 考资料。

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背景技术

一个网络一般来说包括通信链路和连接到该通信链路并具有通信能力的 多种设备。这些设备包括计算机、外部设备、路由器、存储设备、和具有处 理器和通信接口的器具。网络的一个例子是用于家用装置(household)的家庭 网络,其中多种设备被相互连接。通常的家用装置包含几种家电设备,包括 个人计算机和通常能在家里找到的家电设备(home devices)。所述的术语"家 电设备"通常包括逻辑设备或其它具有能够交换数据的功能的器件,并且, 不仅可包括所有的家电设备,而且包括一般用途计算机。"家电设备"包括 多种电子设备,如安全系统、家庭影院设备、电视(TV)、VCR、音响设备、 以及直接广播卫星服务或(DBSS)—它也被称作数字卫星服务(DSS),"家电设 备"还包括消防系统、照明系统、微波炉、洗碗机、烤箱/灶具、洗衣机/干 **30** ° 以及汽车中的外理系统。



一般而言,家电设备的用途是提高房屋主人的生活格调和生活水平。例如,洗碗机洗刷弄脏的碗碟,使得房屋主人不必用手来洗碗。VCR 记录电视节目使得房屋主人能够以后观看特定的节目。安全系统保护房屋主人的财产,减轻了房屋主人对非法侵入的担心。

家电设备,诸如家庭影院设备,常常通过单一的通用控制器件即遥控设备来控制,这种单一的通用控制器件允许房屋主人能够采用单一接口来控制和命令几种不同的家电设备。于是,许多制造商开发了通过单一接口来控制和命令几种不同家电设备的控制器件。

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使用遥控器件来命令和控制家电设备的一个相关缺点是,遥控器件提供 10 用于控制和命令每个家电设备的静态控制和命令逻辑。因此,特定的遥控器件只能控制和命令在遥控器件中包含用于家电设备的必要控制和命令逻辑的那些家电设备。例如,如果一个遥控器件包括用于控制电视(TV)、磁带录像机(VCR)和数字视频设备(DVD)的逻辑,但没有用于光盘(CD)器件的逻辑,则不能采用该遥控器件来命令和控制该 CD 器件。此外,随着新的家电设备的发展,该遥控器件将不能控制和命令新的家电设备,原因是这些新的家电设备所要求的控制和命令逻辑在开发该遥控器件时是未知的。

此外,遙控器件通常只能被用于命令和控制在该遙控器件的信号范围之内的家电设备。因此,用户不能从房屋中的单一位置使用遙控器件来控制和命令相互连接但位于家中不同地方的家电设备。例如,位于楼上卧室中的VCR可以连接到位于楼下客厅(family room)中的电视上。如果用户想要在位于楼下客厅中的电视上播放包含在位于楼上卧室中的 VCR 中的录像带,则该用户不能从单一位置控制和命令电视和 VCR 这两者。

使用遥控器件的另一个相关缺点是,已知的遥控器件不能控制多个各种各样的设备,尤其是不能控制具有为完成多个任务或提供一服务而相互通信的不同能力的多个设备。此外,常规的网络系统不能提供用于使不同网络设备中的软件应用程序自动相互通信以在没有直接用户命令的情况下完成多个任务的机制。

为解决上述问题,有些网络模型在一个包括用于联网设备的静态设备信息的设备中提供有中心/单一用户接口(UI),该静态设备信息用于使用户控制网络设备。然而,在这种网络中,设备中设备信息(例如,图标(ICON))的改亦要求顶层页(ton level page)的改变和重建。此外,如果设备变得不能显示



中心用户接口,则用户不能再控制网络。中心/单一页的另一个问题是,每个 UI 设备必须显示相同的页,并且,没有对每个制造商提供生成其自己的 UI 外观和感觉的范围,也不能改变 UI 设备中使用的技术。表示一设备的图标/信息的内容不能被改变,并且,UI 设备不能对设备图标(比如用于该 UI 设备本身的图标)显示更引人著目的外观。UI 创建工具不也能从外部万维网入口(Web Portal)获得电子商务(e-business)图标。这种模型不能被标准化为工业应用,因为中心/单一 UI 设备控制着 UI。

因此,需要一种在家庭网络中提供动态控制和命令设备的方法和系统。 还需要这种方法和系统提供经不同的动态用户接口来控制具有不同性能的多 个各种设备的能力。

本发明的概述

本发明能够满足上述需要。在一个实施例中,本发明提供了一种用于提供控制当前连接到一网络的各个设备的用户接口的方法和系统,以使至少一个所述设备执行包括下列步骤的步骤: (a)从当前连接到所述网络的一个或多个设备中获取信息,所述信息包括设备信息;和(b)至少根据所述获取的信息生成用户接口描述文件(description),该用户接口描述文件包括与当前连接到所述网络的所述各个设备中的每一个设备的设备信息相关联的一参考文件(reference),因此该参考文件包括至少一个到包含在当前连接到所述网络的所述各个设备中的信息的链路。这样,可以利用用户接口描述文件中的参考文件来显示用户接口,该用户接口用于控制当前连接到所述网络的所述各个设备。

在一种形式中,顶层家庭网络(home network, HN)目录页可以被全部描述在'摘要(abstract)'中,以允许各个设备自由控制由参考文件(非直接地)调用的设备图标信息。这就允许各个设备改变图标内容及内容技术,并且不会招致回到中心设备进行这些改变的命令和控制的额外开销。此外,也不需要中心设备,因为顶层 HN 目录总是使用相同的摘要参考文件,并且任何设备都可以用该参考文件来提供用户对所有设备的访问。

附图的简要说明

通过参照下面的描述、所附的权利要求和附图,将能更好地理解本发明

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的这些和其它特征、方面和优点,附图中:

图 1 示出本发明网络的一个实施例的体系结构的一例框图;

图 2 示出本发明网络的另一个实施例的体系结构的一例框图;

图 3 示出本发明的可用于在家电设备之间进行通信的分层接口模型的一 5 个例子:

图 4A 示出在本发明的一个网络中,对能够显示用户接口的 DTV 客户机设备重播视频的 DVCR 服务器设备的一例体系结构图;

图 4B 示出在本发明的一个网络中,与能够显示用户接口的客户机设备 进行通信的服务器设备的另一例体系结构图;

图 5-6 示出表示联网设备对用户的各功能的顶层 GUI 例子;

图 7 示出按照本发明另一个实施例构造的家庭网络的一例体系结构框图:

图 8 示出用于在 IP 地址结构的 1394 网络和非 1394 网络之间进行通信的本发明的处理过程的一个例子;

15 图 9A-C 示出在按照本发明另一方面的一个网络中,在发现系统 (discovery system)体系结构的一个实施例中,到数据和控制位的连接关系的 功能框图例子;

图 10 示出在与图 9A-C 的功能框图连接的家庭网络中,用于发现和配置代理程序的流程图例子;

20 图 11 示出在与图 9A-C 的功能框图连接的家庭网络中,用于用户接口 代理程序的流程图例子:和

附录 1-4 是下列各项的示例: (1)顶层页描述文件 250(附录 1); (2)Background.htm(附录 2); (3)Icon.htm(附录 3); 和(4)Name.htm(附录 4)。

为便于理解,尽可能在所有附图中用相同的标号来表示相同的部件。

实现本发明的最好模式

<网络概述>

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参照图 1,在本发明的一个实施例中,网络 10 包括多种设备 11,该多种设备 11 包括经通信链路 16 相互连接的至少一个客户机设备 12 和至少一个服务器设备 14。通信链路 16 可包括 1394 串行总线,提供用于在各种相许的家电设备之间发送和接收数据的物理层(媒体)。1394 串行总线支持时分

复用的音频/视频(A/V)流和标准 IP(Internet Protocol, 因特网协议)通信(例如, IETF RFC 2734)。在某些实施例中,家庭网络使用 IP 网络层作为该家庭网络的通信层。然而,其它通信协议可用于为该家庭网络提供通信。例如,本发明可使用由 IEC 61883 定义的功能控制协议(Function Control Protocol, FCP) 或者任何其它适当的协议来实现。因此,一个网络一般来说可以包括两个或更多个通过物理层相互连接的设备,该物理层按照预定通信协议交换或传送数据。

在网络 10 中,每个客户机设备 12 可以与一个或多个服务器设备 14 进行通信。此外,在网络 10 中,每个服务器设备 14 可以与一个或多个其它服务器设备 14 以及一个或多个客户机设备 12 进行通信。每个客户机设备 12 可包括一用户通信接口,该通信接口包括比如用于接收用户输入的鼠标和键盘等的输入设备以及用于提供使用户与联网设备交互的控制用户接口的显示器。用户接口可包括用于向用户提供信息的图形用户接口(GUI)18。每个服务器设备 14 包括作为网络中用于向用户提供服务的资源的硬件,还可以包括用于控制服务器硬件的服务器或服务控制程序 20。

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每个服务器设备 14 除了不能控制用户接口之外能向用户提供服务,并且,每个客户机设备 12 提供包括用于使用户与网络 10 交互的控制用户接口的服务。这样,仅有客户机设备 12 直接与用户交互,而服务器设备 14 仅与客户机设备 12 和其它服务器设备 14 交互。举例来说,服务可包括 MPEG 2i) 资料提供/搜寻和显示服务。

在本发明的一个示例性实施例中,基于浏览器的网络(例如,家庭网络)利用因特网技术来控制和命令包括连接到网络的客户机设备和服务器设备的各设备。每个设备包括比如接口数据(例如,HTML、XML、JAVA、JAVASCRIPT、GIF、JPEG、图形文件、或者任何对所需目的有用的其它格式)等的设备信息,该信息提供用于通过网络命令和控制设备的接口。在某些实施例中,每个设备都包括比如一个或多个超文本标记语言(HTML)页等的设备信息,能够对该设备提供命令和控制。利用浏览器技术,网络采用因特网标准来呈现(render)HTML 页,以向用户提供多个用于命令和控制每个设备的图形用户接口(GUI)。在一个例子中,网络被构造成内部网。

在一个实施例中,客户机设备包含向人类操作员提供控制接口服务的设备, 包括用于向下通信的图形显示硬件和用于向上(或返回)通信的鼠标或其



它点击设备。服务器设备包含提供服务的一模块,所述服务可以是除了由客户机设备提供的控制接口之外的任何服务。这样,服务器/客户机设备关系是一种控制关系,其中服务器设备提供服务,但客户机设备可使用数据比如DTV 显示视频数据,但不必处理或改变数据。因此这就与通常遵守的定义是一致的,即,服务器可以是信息源,而客户机(例如,浏览器)可以是信息的用户。

可由服务器设备实现的特定功能的例子包括:返回信息(数据);执行一功能(例如,机械功能)并返回状态;返回数据流和状态;接收数据流和返回状态;或者,保存用于后续动作的状态。服务器设备的例子包括 MPEG 源、信宿(sink)和显示服务器。尽管典型地服务器设备包括常规内置控制程序,用于实现其本身硬件的控制,但客户机用于与该服务器设备进行接口。然而,这里所使用的服务器设备并不意味着必须使用 web 服务器和协议堆栈 (stack)。

图 2 示出了按照本发明一个方面的网络 100 的一个实施例的框图。在网 络 100 上, 上面所述的 1394 串行总线 114 电连接到多种设备 11, 包括服务 器设备 14(例如, DVD 108、DVCR 110)、客户机设备 12(例如, DTV 162、 103)、网桥(Bridge)116、DVCR 120、PC 105、电缆/modem(调制解调器)接入 107 和 DBS 接入 109。图 3 示出了按照本发明可用于在各设备 11 之间进行 通信的分层接口模块的一个例子。在本例中,设备(服务器)150 利用一个或 多个网络通信协议层 152-164 与客户机设备 166 进行通信。在一个例子中, 设备 150 中的应用程序通过网络层 160 与设备 166 中的应用程序进行通信。 下面的层 162 和 164 的细节不能由应用程序了解到,因此使用比如 1394 或 者以太网(Ethernet)都不会对设备 150、166 中的所述应用程序带来差别。此 外,并不是 7 层模型的所有上层都会在所有时间内使用(例如,在 Web 模型 (TCP/IP 模型)中,不使用会话层 156 和表示层 154)。这样,在一种形式中, 通过对网络层 160 采用因特网协议标准,各设备可以相互通信,但不用了解 其它通信层(即,应用层 152、表示层 154、会话层 156、传输层 158、数据 链路层 162、和物理层 164)的具体细节。因此,通过对网络层 160 采用因特 网协议标准, 网络可以在不同设备的通信中使用不同通信层的组合。

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内的 VCR 和电视)。在逻辑设备访问 GUI 以使用户控制一设备的情况下,该设备和该逻辑设备可包括在同一个物理组件内。在这种实施例中,物理设备从其本身提取一 GUI。然而,在其它实施例中,网络将各个物理设备互连,其中,例如,第一设备从第二设备中提取一 GUI,以允许用户与该 GUI 进行交互从而控制第二设备。

在当前优选的实施例中,将 1394 串行总线用作物理层 164,用于在网络 100 上进行数据通信。由于其增强的带宽能力(例如,增强且有保证的带宽及同步流能力),1394 串行总线能够对网络 100 上的所有数据通信(即,音频/视频流和命令/控制)提供单一媒体。

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此外, 1394 串行总线提供自动配置复位,使得当插入/去除一设备时, 所有的 1394 接口复位, 1394 总线重新配置并且每个设备都了解每个其它设 备(包括新添加的设备或者不包括刚刚去除的设备)的存在。此外, 1394 接口 支持配置信息的数据空间(space),这些信息是可从任何允许其它设备写入/读 取信息和进行修改(例如允许网络层协议的操作)的设备寻址的。然而,可以 用不同的软件和标准来得到这些结果。因此, 网络 100 并不限于使用 1394 串行总线,并且,在本发明的替代实施例中,其它总线类型,例如以太网、 ATM、无线等,如果它们满足单独网络(例如,家庭网络)的特定吞吐量要求 即可被用作物理层。此外,修改的形式,例如无线以太网可包括 1394 的主 要特征。

如图 2 所示, 网络 100 包括连接到 1394 串行总线 114 的数个设备。在本例中,这些设备包括 DBSS 104, 用于从卫星 122 接收用于后续显示的发送信号。与 DBSS 相关联的是网络接口单元("network interface unit, NIU"),该单元的功能之一是提供在 DBSS 卫星传输和 1394 串行总线 114 之间的接口。

数字视频设备(digital video device, DVD)108 也连接到示例性网络 100。 DVD 108 可被用于在电视上显示数字编码的视频内容。连接到示例性网络 100 的还有数字视频盒式磁带录像机(digital video cassette recorder, DVCR)110,即数字电视 102。在本例中,DTV 102 通过采用浏览器技术来提供对于网络 100 的人际接口,以允许用户控制和命令家庭网络 100 中的各设备。第二 DTV 103 通过采用浏览器技术来提供对于网络 100 的另一个人际接口,以允许用户控制和命令家庭网络 100 中的各设备。DTV 102 和 103 可提供对于网络 100

的人际接口,因为每个 DTV 都包含用于显示 HTML 页的一屏幕。然而,其它具有显示能力的设备可被用于提供人际接口。因此,在本发明的某些实施例中,诸如个人计算机 105(PC)等的设备被用于提供对于各个家庭网络的人际接口,因为 PC 105 通常被体现为一个屏幕显示单元。

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1394 串行总线 114 被描述为采用 HTTP/IP 接口协议,并且最好是HTTP/TCP/IP 协议,其中 IP 提供分组格式(单向只写模型),TCP 提供 IP 的无错版本(例如,保证分组到达并且以正确的顺序到达),并且,HTTP 提供双向连接(分组到服务器将期待一响应,是'读取'模型)。某些设备可要求其它协议接口类型(例如,UPD/IP、FTP/IP、TELNET/IP、SNMP/IP、DNS/IP、SMTP/IP)。在本发明的某些实施例中,代理服务器(proxy)116 可被用于对两个网络提供接口,其中这两个网络在它们各自的媒体上采用不同的接口协议,这些网络在被相连时包括网络 100。代理服务器 116(例如,Web 代理服务器)可包括家庭自动类型协议,比如用于 X10 的 HTML/HTTP/TCP/IP 代理服务器、Lonworks、CEBus(取决于它们各自的物理技术)、或者 1394上的非IP协议(例如,AVC/FCP/1394)。

在某些实施例中,两个网络媒体是属于同一类型。例如,如图 2 所描述的,采用 HTTP/IP 接口协议的 1394 串行总线 114 是由代理服务器 116 连接到家庭自动中枢(neutral)118(例如,X10)的。通过将代理服务器 116 用作用于 VCR-命令/AVC/FCP/1394 的 HTML/HTTP/TCP/IP/1394 代理服务器,以提供 HTML/HTTP/TCP/IP 和 X10 协议之间的接口,网络 100 上的 DVCR 120 也是可访问的。在某些其它实施例中,网络可包括不同类型的两种网络媒体,例如,1394 串行总线和以太网。因此,在本发明的某些实施例中,代理服务器用于提供对两个不同媒体类型的接口,以形成单一网络。后面将描述的发现处理可被用于发现通电并连接到网络 100 的各设备。此外,可使用同样的 1394 总线,而不需要网桥盒。

如图 2 所描述的,设备 11 包括 DTV 102、DTV 103、PC 105、DVCR 110、DVD 108、DSS-NIU 104 和 DVCR 120,它们表示当前连接到包含 1394 网络的网络 100 的各设备。客户机-服务器关系存在于所连接的设备中,其中 DTV 102、DTV 103 和 PC 105 通常用作客户机,而设备 DVCR 110、DVD 108、DSS-NIU 104 和 DVCR 120 用作服务器。

典型的 1394 网络包含互连的设备,比如为设施的集合,包括提供一个

或多个被控服务的服务器设备(例如,用作 MPEG 视频记录和重播服务器的 DVCR 100),以及提供用于控制服务器设备的用户界面(UI)服务的客户机设 备(例如, DTV 102)。某些设施(例如, DTV 103)可具有受控制的双重服务(例 如,MPEG解码和显示能力),以及UI控制器能力。按照本发明的一个方面, 在网络 100 中,包括基于万维网(World Wide Web)标准(Web 模型)中所使用 的技术的协议、文件描述、图像压缩和脚本语言标准的各种方法和系统用于 实现 1394 WEB(万维网)用户到设备控制模型。万维网模型是一种客户机/服 务器模型。受控的服务器设备(服务)包括 Web 服务器,而控制器客户机设备 (即,能够显示 UI 的设备)包括 Web 客户机,该 Web 客户机包括下面将进一 步描述的 GUI 表示引擎, 比如 Web 浏览器(例如, Explorer™、Netscape™等)。

<用户设备控制>

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图 4 示出了按照本发明在网络 100 中的比如 DVCR 110 等的服务器设 备, DVCR 110 用于向比如 DTV 102 等的客户机设备重播 MPEG 视频, 其 15 中, DTV 102 可显示用户界面。DVCR 110 包括 Web 服务器硬件和软件, 而 DTV 102 包括 Web 浏览器软件。用户可利用 DTV 102 来请求使该 DTV 102 基于 DVCR 110 中所包含的信息 202 或者基于 DTV 102 中所包含的信息 204 显示用户界面。例如,用户可利用 DTV 102 中的浏览器 200 来显示包含在 DVCR 110 中的 HTML 控制页 GUI 202 或者包含在 DTV 102 中的 HTML 控 制页 GUI 204。每个页 202、204 包括 HTML 形式的图形用户界面描述信息, 其中浏览器 200 读取该信息来生成图形用户界面。每个页 202、204 分别表 示应用程序 206、212 的控制接口。每个页 202、204 可包括分级页,用来表 示相应的应用程序控制接口。

每个 GUI 202 和/或 204 包括有效控制图标和/或按钮,用于让用户选择 和控制当前连接到网络 100 的控制设备。例如,如果用户选择通过浏览器 200 显示在 DTV 102 上的 DVCR 110 的 GUI 202 中的"播放(PLAY)"按钮,则 一超链接消息返回到 DVCR 110 Web 服务器并指向 DVCR 110 中的应用软件 206(例如, MPEG 记录/重播服务应用软件), 用于操作 DVCR 硬件 208。在 一个例子中,DVCR 110 中的 MPEG 视频流源 208 将一 MPEG 视频流发送 到 DTV 102 中的 MPEG 视频解码和显示系统 210, 用于在 DTV 102 中的应 用控制软件 212 的控制下进行显示。DVCR 110 中的应用软件 206 还将信息



发送回 DTV 102 中的应用软件 212,例如包括当操作成功时的确认消息,或者将改变的或者不同的控制 GUI 202 发送回对用户指示状态的 DTV 102,还可以在应用软件 206 和 212 之间进行进一步的通信,例如用于建立用于视频流服务的 1394 同步视频流连接。

图 4B 示出在网络 100 中,一服务器设备与能够显示用户接口的一客户机设备进行通信的另一例体系结构图。在网络 100 中,比如 DVCR 110 等的服务器设备对比如 DTV 102 等的客户机设备重播 MPEG 视频,其中 DTV 102 可显示一用户接口。

10 <通信协议>

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在本发明的一个实施例中,在网络 100 中各设备之间的通信协议是基于超文本传送协议(HTTP 1.1)、用于分布协作式超媒体信息系统的应用层协议。HTTP 是通用的、无国界的、面向对象的协议,可被用于完成许多任务。HTTP的一个特征是数据表示的键入和协商(typing and negotiation),允许各设备被与要通过各设备所连接的网络 100 传送的数据无关地建立。

<GUI 描述语言>

用于定义各种 GUI 202、204 的描述文件语言例如可以是 HTML,版本 4.0,万维网的出版语言。HTML 支持文本、多媒体和超链接特征的脚本语 20 言和样式表。HTML 4.0 是符合国际标准 ISO 8879—标准概括的标记语言的 SGML 应用程序。

<图像压缩格式>

为显示图像,在 1394 WEB 网络 100 中采用由 HTML 规范规定的三种静止图像图形压缩格式,以用于 ICON、LOGO(标识语)和其它图形。这些静止图像图形压缩格式为:图形相互交换格式(Graphics Interchange Format, GIF89s)、逐行扫描联合图片专家组(Joint Photographic Experts Group, JPEG)和可移植网络图形(Portable Network Graphics, PNG)。表 1 示出在三种静止图像图形压缩格式之间能力的差异。

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	PNG	逐行扫描 JPEG	GIF89a
颜色深度	48 位	24 位	8位
支持的颜色	·	1.67 千万	256
支持的格式	光栅、矢量		光栅
压缩制式	LZ77 衍生物(derivative)	JPEG	LZW
	灰度及 RGB 的每像素、		单一颜色
透明度	用于索引的每种颜色、	无	2 级
•	256 级		(二进制)
			4.
逐行扫描显示	是	是	是
可升级性	否	否	否
动画		否	是
无损压缩	100%		
	48 位		
灰度	16位		
有索引色彩	是		
伽马(γ)校正(光强)	是		
色度校正	两者都有		
可检索元数据	是		
可展开性	是,程序块编码		

<脚本语言>

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此外,Web 脚本语言即 ECMA-Script-262 用于提供视觉上增强 GUI Web 页 202 以作为基于 Web 的客户机-服务器体系结构的一部分的手段。脚本语言是用于操纵各设备的设施/服务并使这些设施/服务客户化和自动化的编程语言。用户接口 200 提供基本用户接口功能,并且脚本语言用于将功能体表述为程序控制。现有系统提供用于完成脚本语言的能力的对象和设施的主机环境。Web 浏览器 200 提供用于客户机侧计算的 ECMA-脚本主机环境,例如包括表示视窗(windows)、菜单、弹出(pop-ups)、对话框(dialog boxes)、文本区(text areas)、定锚(anchors)、方框(frames)、历史记录(history)、小甜饼



(cookies)和输入/输出的对象。

Web 浏览器 200 提供用于 EXMA-脚本-262 的主机环境,该主机环境支持附加用于各事件的脚本代码,这些事件比如为改变聚焦、页和图像装入、卸载、出错和异常中止、选择、形成建议、以及鼠标动作。脚本代码包括在HTML 页 202 和 204 中,而显示的页为浏览器 200,包括用户接口部件的组合以及固定和计算的文本和图像。脚本代码对用户交互进行响应,不需要主程序。

<客户机设备规范>

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在一个实施例中,用于1394WEB客户机浏览器200的规范包括HTTP!.1 10 规范,其中,该 HTTP 1.1 规范中涉及到连接持久性的'8.1.2.1 协商 (Negotiation),章节被作了修改,使得比如 DTV 102 等的 HTTP 1.1 客户机设 备期待经 1394 到比如 DVCR 110 的服务器设备的连接保持为断开,因为 1394WEB 用户控制的持久连接允许来自服务器设备(DVCR 110)的全状态报 告,同时 GUI 202 和/或 204 保持在客户机设备(DTV 102)的浏览器 200 中的 15 可视性。HTTP 连接保持为断升(HTTP 规范 RFC 2068), 其中支持持久连接 的客户机可以"管线输送(pipeline)"其请求(即,在不等待每个响应的情况 下发送多个请求)。服务器必须以与接收到各请求的顺序相同的顺序发送对 于那些请求的响应。这就允许 Web 浏览器 200 向 DVCR 110 管线输送请求, 然后, DVCR 110 可利用比如状态响应来满足这些请求,这些响应比如为当 20 前播放、当前记录、倒带、结束、带子损坏,等。其它例子的实现形式例如 包括:来自 DVCR 110 的控制页可以含有一请求,用于请求循环(loop)GUI 描述文件 202 的 DVCR 100 请求。

GUI 表示引擎 200 用在比如 DTV 102 等的客户机设备中,用于解译写入 HTML 4.0 文件描述语言及相关规范(下面将描述)中的 GUI 描述文件 202、204,并用于创建用于向用户显示的图形。GUI 表示引擎 200 例如包括下列属性:(1)视窗(GUI)最小缺省尺寸,例如为 H0x640 像素(480×640,其中 480为垂直像素,640 为水平像素)。该缺省尺寸用于确保 GUI 202、204 中想要的外观,该外观传送到浏览器 200 中的用户。所传送的 GUI 202、204 显示在 480×640 像素的视窗中,或者以相同的屏幕宽高比放大为更大,除非用户另有指定:(2)静止图像压缩格式:例如为 GIF89a、JPEG 和 PNG;(3)样式

表格式和字体:例如CSS1和CSS2;(4)比如下面所述的固定字体(build-in fonts) 这样的字体对客户机设备来说是需要的,它使得简单的服务器设施不必支持这些字体。每一个普通拉丁族字体中的最小的一种字体可以被选择:例如,从'serif'族中选择 Times New Roman(新罗马字体);从'sans-serif'族中选择 Helvetica;从'cursive'族中选择 Zapf-Chancery;从'fantasy'族中选择 Western;以及从'monospace'族中选择 Courier。其它的字体也可以被采用;以及(5)脚本语言,例如,ECMA-262。GUI表示引擎 200 的例子包括 ExplorerTM和 NetscapeTM等按需要配置/客户化的 Web 浏览器。

<服务器设备规范>

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- 一个或多个服务器设备(例如, 1394WEB 网络控制的设施的 Web 服务器,比如为 DVCR 110)包括下面六种列举的部件:
- (1) HTTP 1.1 web 服务器协议,具有 HTTP 1.1 规范中涉及被修改的连接的 '8.1.2.1 协商'章节,修改后的连接使得 HTTP 1.1 服务器设备(例如,DVCR 110)假定 HTTP 1.1 客户机设备(例如,DTV 102)想要保持与该服务器设备的持久连接。1394WEB 网络 100 中的持久连接允许例如从服务器设备 DVCR 110 到客户机设备 DTV 102 的全状态报告,同时,DVCR 110 的 GUI 202保持在 DTV 102 的浏览器 200 中的可视性。此外,可采用利用 HTTP条件性 GET 来获得服务器设备的最新状态的方法。无论何时用户返回到家庭网络目录或者使其被刷新,浏览器 200 都要重新显示本页的全部。这点是必需的,因为如果已经将一设备添加到网络 100 中或者从网络 100 中除去一设备,那么家庭网络目录下的 HTML 必须被重新生成。可以将设备图标更新,以反映它们的设备工作状态的变化。因此,由 EIA-775.1 设备所实现的浏览器采用 HTTP "conditional get(条件性获得)"请求来确定是否应当从服务器中检索 web 页或者图形的新复制件。
 - (2) 例如以 HTML 4.0 写成的设备主页 GUI 描述文件 202、204,包括例如 icon.htm、name.htm、logo.htm、index.htm、gif 文件等的文件。文件 index.htm被包括在设备 icon.htm 和 name.htm HTML 文件中的 HTML 链路参照,其中 index.htm 可被选择性地命名为比如"INDEX.HTML"或者"INDEX.HTM"。命名为 INDEX.HTM 的文件不要求是标准化名称,因为 ICON.HTM 和 NAME.HTM 是利用对(INDEX.HTM,的超链接来形成的,因此其么称是



随机的。ICON.HTM 和 LOGO.HTM 参照同一设备中的实际图形文件,例如 LOGO.GIF 和 ICON.GIF。描述文件 202、204 可由网络 100 中的设备(例如, HTTP 设备)访问。为保证想要的外观,控制 GUI 设计可以是缺省的 GUI 尺寸,例如 480×640 像素。例如,传送的 GUI 202 可以显示在浏览器 200 的 480×640 像素的视窗中,或者以相同的宽高比被放大得更大,除非用户另有指定。

(3) 提供了至少两个设备 ICON(图标)文件,用来表示浏览器 200 中顶层 网页 220(图 5-6)中的设备,并用来说明关于连接到网络的各设备的信息。ICON 可包含一图形文件类型(例如, GIF、JPG 或 PNG)并被命名为 ICON.HTM。
10 在一个例子中, ICON.HTM(DVCR)参考 HTML 页 202 中的 INDEX.HTM 文件,而 ICON.HTM(DTV)参考 HTML 页 204 中的 INDEX.HTM 文件。用于设备的控制页(例如,INDEX.HTM)的顶层链路可以是 ICON.HTM。浏览器 200 中有网络 100 中的多个设备的图标和链路,浏览器 200 将这些图标和链路放置在顶层 HN 目录页 220 中,用于让用户进行服务发现。然后,用户点击显 示在页 220 中的 ICON,并取出设备页(例如,页 202 中的 INDEX.HTM)。缺省显示的 HN 目录是顶层发现页。

可使用许多附加和不同的图形图标,例如,用来表示可替代图形图标的设备状态、用户配置偏好或者制造商格式。在下面进一步描述的发现处理中,从各设备连接到网络 100 的多个 ICON 集合在一起并显示在顶层网络设备页220 中,以便由用户选择。设备 ICON 规范的一个例子包含:可由 HTTP 服务器访问的文件名 ICON.HTM(文件名存在于目录中、文件间隔 (file space)处,可由 Web 服务器访问,以使它们可被检索并通过网络传送到浏览器);图形文件类型,比如 GIF、JPG 或者 PNG;以及最大尺寸为 70(V)×130(H)像素的图标图形。

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(4) 提供了至少两个设备 LOGO(标识语)文件,用来表示顶层网络设备页中的设备。LOGO 可包含一图形文件类型(例如,GIF、JPG 或 PNG)并被命名为 LOGO.HTM。在一个例子中,LOGO.HTM(DVCR)参考 HTML 页 202中的 INDEX.HTM,而 LOGO.HTM(DTV)参考 HTML 页 204中的 INDEX.HTM。在一种形式中,用于设备的控制页(例如,INDEX.HTM)的顶层链路可以是 LOGO.HTM。所有的设备标识语可以放在顶层 HN 目录页 220中,用于让用户进行服务发现。然后,用户点击显示在页 220中的 LOGO,

并取出设备页(例如,页 202)。可以用许多用于制造商服务的附加和不同的 图形来替代标识语图形格式。按照发现处理,从各设备连接到网络 100 的多个 LOGO 集合在一起并显示在顶层网络设备页 220 中,以便由用户选择。 设备 LOGO 规范的一个例子包含:可由 HTTP 服务器访问的文件名 LOGO.HTM;图形文件类型,比如 GIF、JPG 或者 PNG;以及最大尺寸为 大约 70(V)×130(H)像素的标识语图形。

(5) 提供了至少一个设备 NAME(名称), 用来表示顶层网络设备页中的 设备。NAME 可包含 HTML 文件 NAME.HTM 中的 TEXT(文本)。该文本可 参考控制页(例如,页 202)。这是发现页中到设备的控制接口的顶层链路。 这种文本可以提供区别相同设备的方式,由此,例如,两个相同的 DTV 可 通过增加 NAME 文本'卧室电视'和'客厅电视'来区别。这种文本可包 括少许文字,用来清楚地表示设备类型,例如,DVCR 或者 DTV。按照发 现处理,从各设备连接到网络 100 的多个 NAME 与相应 ICON/LOGO 一起 被访问,并显示在顶层网络设备页 220 中的 ICON/LOGO 下。NAME 规范的 一个例子包含:可由 HTTP 服务器访问的文件名 NAME.HTM;未指定文本, 例如,字体大小为 10 的两行文本可以显示在相应的 ICON/LOGO 下。因此, 例如,用于 NAME.HTM 文本的空间大小可以是垂直 20 乘以水平 130,以便 能匹配 ICON/LOGO(70 垂直×130 水平)。就象如图 5-6 的例子所示的,顶层 UI 220 的格式可包含一矩阵图标,用来表示联网设备对用户的各功能。表示 设备的名称(来自 name.htm)放置在同一设备的图标(来自 icon.htm)下。标识 语(来自 logo.htm)例如可以放置在任何空闲的图标位置。由于顶层描述文件 250(下面将结合图 9A-C 进一步描述)是由有 UI 功能的设备独立生成的,不 必预先安排确切的设计。图标、标识语和名称的最大尺寸可被预先安排,以 便于 GUI 矩阵的设计。

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(6) 可提供以 HTML 4.0 写成的设备信息汇总主页描述文件,例如被命名为"info.html"或"info.htm",并且可以在发现处理中由 HTTP 服务器访问。可通过控制页(例如控制页 202 和 204)将一链路提供给 INFO.HTM 信息。设备信息汇总主页向用户提供设备汇总而不是详细的控制接口,就象设备主页中所示出的。表 2 示出所包括的设备属性文本以及可包括的其它内容。该表可被扩充,以包括其它属性。



<表 2-设备信息汇总>

名称	值
设备名称	设备名称(用户可配置)
设备位置	家中的设备位置(用户可配置)
设备图标	当前设备 ICON 名称
设备类型	设备类型或者类别(VCR、DSS、TV等)
设备模型	设备模型
制造商名称	设备制造商名称
制造商标识语	制造商标识语图像名称
制造商 URL	设备制造商的 URL
流源名称缺省	服务:用于本设备目标服务的缺省源设备名称
流目标名称缺省	服务:用于本设备源服务的缺省目标设备名称
流源属性	服务设备的类型可以是交付(属性和能力)
流目标属性	服务设备的类型可以是接收(属性和能力)

表 2 包括比如制造商名称、制造商标识语图像名称等的设备汇总信息,并且还包括制造商 URL,该制造商 URL 用来在出现到制造商 Web 站点的有效因特网连接时提供帮助。表 2 还可包括用户可配置的设备名称和家中的设备位置。表示设备的不同状态的设备图标可以有几种变化形式。设备图标属性字段包括当前图标名称。因此,设备汇总信息页可通过显示表示当前状态的图标而对用户提供即时的设备状态信息。

每个设备可包括一个或多个服务,例如,视频流源或者视频流目标。每个源性能具有完整的缺省目标性能,而每个目标性能具有完整的缺省源性能。当 DVCR 被控制为源时,这种流缺省名称项目例如可用于自动默认最近的 DTV 为目标,以免除每次对 DTV 的选择。提供了流缺省名称对 1394地址的背景交叉参考。视频流服务是由 1394 接口本身提供的(而不是由 Web模型提供的)。因此存在着缺省源或信宿到 1394 地址的链接机制。用户可访问一设备并选择默认的名称,然后,该名称存储在设备上。设备的软件代理程序必须找出 1394地址及用于 1394 s/w 的参数,以便在需要时启动缺省流。

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采用源和目标服务属性,可实现新的一个服务器/多个服务器,同时保证上四大之上之次次(共上)的基实性及久和服务。例如,如果提供新服务的



新服务器设备研制成功并与现有服务器设备兼容,则新的和现有的服务器都 可被添加到新节点的属性列表,同时保持与网络 100 中使用现有服务器的现 有节点的兼容性。用户可选择购买一兼容设备。这就能给用户提供 "ABOUT(大概)"信息,以便例如在购买新设备之前,在需要兼容性的情况 下,检验现有设备的性能。

<网络操作>

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用于每一个支持 1394WEB 标准的设备(例如,能够显示用户接口的设备) 的发现处理从连接到网络 100 的各设备搜集设备信息,以生成用于家庭网络 10 的顶层用户控制页描述文件,其中每个设备是由上面详述的图形图标参考文 件和原文本(textual)名称参考文件来表示的。顶层描述文件可包括用于比如 浏览器 200 等的表示引擎的缺省页,其中浏览器 200 在其呈现显示在该浏览 器 200 中的网络顶层图形用户接口 220(GUI)时,从各设备中搜集图形图像和 名称,就象图 5-6 的例子所示的。动态创建的顶层 HN 目录页 220 作为浏览 器的缺省页(当启动浏览器时显示的第一页)。

参照图 4B, 举例来说, 操作步骤包括:(1)启动设备 102 中的浏览器 200, (2)浏览器 200 从页 204 中提取并呈现 HN 目录 HTM(顶层 UI), (3)浏览器 200 从页 202、204 中提取 HTM 文件 icon.htm 和 names.htm, 并将其呈现在顶层 UI 中, (4)浏览器 200 从页 202、204 中提取任何图形文件(例如, GIF), 并 20. 将其呈现在顶层 UI 中, (5)然后, 浏览器 200 能够呈现全部 HN 目录 (HN directory)页 220(页 220 是由对'INDEX.HTM'文件的超链接制作的, 用于连接到网络 100 的不同设备),以及(6)当用户例如点击 GUI 220 中的 DVCR 图标以控制 DVCR 110 时,到 DVCR 110 的'INDEX.HTM'的顶层 页 220 中的相应超链接被用来从 DVCR 110 的页 202 中检索 'INDEX.HTM' (DVCR 的顶控制页),并将该 DVCR 控制页呈现给用户(例如,如果所点击 的方框(例如 icon.htm 方框)不够大,则图形以全方框尺寸呈现在浏览器的另 一个复制件中)。然后,用户可利用由 DVCR 设备 110 的'INDEX.HTM'所 提供的控制接口来命令和控制 DVCR 110, 该控制接口是由 DTV 102 中的浏 览器 200 呈现的。

名称'INDEX.HTM'是任意的,因为 ICON.HTM 和 NAME.HTM 是用 到'INDEX.HTM'的超链接制作的。然而,ICON.HTM 和 LOGO.HTM 参

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考相同设备中的实际图形文件(例如,LOGO.GIF 和 ICON.GIF)。在一个实施例中,如果用于一设备的标识语是可选择的,则 LOGO.HTM 也是可选择的。HN 目录(HN_Directory)HTML 文件可具有标准名称,以使其可从另一个设备被访问到。

图 5-6 示出主机设备,比如客户机设备(例如,DTV 102、HDTV 1)或者生成和呈现顶层 GUI 页 220 的服务器设备(例如,DVCR 110),主机设备可拥有优先权并将更大尺寸的图标使用于主设备的图标、名称、标识语等。在一种形式中,仅在 GUI 220 中显示具有服务器(提供服务)的设备("客户机设备"包含具有客户机能力的设备,其中,如果其仅仅是客户机,则不显示在顶层 GUI 中,因为没有服务要提供)。发现处理从 1394 地址空间数据存储器件(配置 ROM 结构)中读取信息,就象在 ISO/IEC 13213 的条款 8 中定义的那样。尽管称为'ROM',但它处于假定地址空间为可写的情况,以便允许用户配置和修改用户相关的存储值。配置 ROM 的内容和发现处理在下文中作了进一步描述。

15 用于利用因特网、Web 和 1394 技术进行的对消费设备的家庭或局域网络控制的设备命名、寻址和发现处理可以与一般因特网空间中的要求和实践不同。因此,按照本发明的用于消费设备的家庭或局域网络控制的一个方面,可采用特定处理,包括设备发现、寻址和命名要求。例如,家庭网络必须是在不需要有外部通信和服务、不需要网络管理员的情况下完成全部功能,并且配置必须全部为自动化。用户控制可以在许多情况下完全不需要键盘进行。此外,IEEE 1394 协议用于提供高级接口,包括可提供简单、有效和优越的发现和配置功能的特点。

<1394 家庭网络>

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25 图 7 示出按照本发明另一个实施例构成的网络 300 的方框图。为便于理解,本文中尽可能采用相同的标号来表示所有附图中公用的相同部件。如图 7 所描述的,上面描述的 1394 串行总线 114 电连接到上面参照图 2 所描述的网络 100 上的多种设备,包括服务器设备 14(例如,DVD 108、DVCR 110)和客户机设备 12(例如,DTV 102),其中各设备采用如上面图 3 中所举例的 分层接口模型进行通信。

网络 300 并不限于采用 1394 串行总线,并且,在本发明的可替代实施



例中,其它类型的总线,比如以太网、ATM 无线等,在它们满足单独网络(例 如,家庭网络)的特定吞吐量要求时可用作物理层。如图 7 所描述的, 网络 300 包括连接到 1394 串行总线 114 的数个设备。在本例中,这些设备包括 DBSS 104. 用于从卫星 122 接收用于后续显示的传输信号。与 DBSS 相关联的是 网络接口单元("NIU"), 其功能之一是提供在 DBSS 卫星传输和 1394 串行 总线 114之间的接口。数字视频设备(DVD)108 也连接到示例性网络 300。DVD 108 可被用于例如在数字电视上显示源数字编码的视频内容。连接到示例性 网络 300 的还有数字视频盒式磁带录像机(DVCR)110、数字电视(DTV)102。 在本例中, DTV 102 通过采用浏览器技术来提供对于网络 300 的人际接口, 10 以允许用户控制和命令家庭网络 300 中的各设备。第二 DTV 103 通过采用 浏览器技术来提供对于网络 300 的另一个人际接口,以允许用户控制和命令 家庭网络300中的各设备。DTV 102和103可提供对于网络300的人际接口, 因为每个 DTV 都包含用于显示 HTML 页的一屏幕。然而,其它具有显示能 力的设备可被用于提供人际接口。因此,在本发明的某些实施例中,诸如个 人计算机 105(PC)等的设备被用于提供对于各个家庭网络的人际接口,因为 PC 105 通常被体现为一个屏幕显示单元。

1394 串行总线 114 被描述为采用 HTTP/IP 接口协议,并且最好是 HTTP/TCP/IP 协议, 其中 IP 提供分组格式(单向只写模型), TCP 提供 IP 的 无错版本(例如,保证分组到达并且以正确的顺序到达),并且,HTTP 提供 双向连接(分组到服务器将期待一响应,是'读取'模型)。某些设备可要求 其它协议接口类型(例如,TCP/IP、UPD/IP、FTP/IP、TELNET/IP、SNMP/IP、 DNS/IP、SMTP/IP)。在本发明的某些实施例中,代理服务器 116 可被用于 对两个网络提供接口,其中这两个网络在它们各自的媒体上采用不同的接口 协议,这些网络在被相连时包括网络300。

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例如,如图 7 所描述的,采用 HTTP/IP 接口协议的 1394 串行总线 114 是由代理服务器 116 连接到家庭自动网络 118(例如,X10)的。通过将代理服 务器 116 用作用于 VCR-命令/AVC/FCP/1394 的 HTML/HTTP/TCP/IP/1394 代 _ 理服务器,以提供 HTML/HTTP/TCP/IP 和 X10 协议之间的接口,网络 300 上的 DVCR 120 也是可访问的。

在本实施例中,网络 300 可以通过总线 121 连接到与 1394 串行总线不 同类型的外部网络 119(例如,以太网)。代理服务器 117 用于提供对两个不



同媒体类型的接口。为在外部网络 119 的地址方案和网络 300 的地址方案之间进行通信,网桥 117 包括网络地址解译(Network Address Translation, NAT) 界限。这项技术可被用于公司 LAN,并且是针对复杂问题的'分而克服(divide and conquer)'方法,满足各种网络的不同 IP 地址要求,并防止'用尽 IPV4'地址。外部网络例如可包括经以太网连接到电话(例如,ADSL)的有线电视网络 115,用于提供到因特网和 WWW 的宽带连接。以太网 119 对外部网络提供网桥功能。网桥 117 或者以太网 119 可提供 NAT 地址转换功能。如果以太网是提供本地专用(仅对家庭)寻址(例如,就象由 IETF 标准 RFC 1918定义的),则 NAT 功能在以太网 119 内完成。现有的电缆调制解调器(modem)是用环球地址以及因特网环球地址建立的,用于以太网上的 PC(在此情况下NAT处于网桥 117 中)。

<IP 名称/地址配置>

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下面描述上面提到的设备命名、寻址和发现处理。对于设备命名,点击 Web 操作(例如,使用 GUI/Web)不要求命名服务(DNS、域名服务)。Web GUI 提供一抽象层(abstraction layer),并且,地址被隐藏为通过用户'点击'以激活 GUI 区(例如,按钮)来调用的超文本链接。局域网 300 中各设备的任何变化都会引起顶层发现 GUI 页 200(图 5-6)的重建,这是由表示当时网络 300 中各设备状态的浏览器 200(图 4A-B)通过将缺省项呈现给用户立即使用来执 20 行的。

对于设备对设备的控制,将一种不同的查找服务使用于多个名称(例如,服务查找和应用程序查找)。这样,DNS 可以不提供用于设备对设备控制的必要特征。然而,正常情况下,一设备(例如,1394 连接的 PC)可以访问 DNS 服务。DNS 不要求在家中发现或操作各设备/各服务,但对于例如从 PC 进行的外部访问来讲,要求 DNS (名称到地址)查找服务。当将一名称例如"www.yahoo.com" 健入浏览器时,则会发生对 Yahoo 计算机的 IP 地址即216.32.74.52 的查找,因为因特网(甚至家庭因特网)是利用地址来操作的。

对于包括用于生成 HN 顶层目录 GUI 描述文件的代理程序并包括对于特定公司 web 服务器的访问例如 homewide.com(IP 地址)的 775WEB UI 设备来讲,也可以有 DNS 地址知识。DNS 服务器计算机 IP 地址可以是制造商控制下的任何 IP 地址。有效的做法是将 DNS 地址内置到设备中(或者可以被

更新,其条件是代理程序(agent)为可更新的并且在其后被更新)。

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对于设备寻址来讲,在本发明的一个实施例中,利用来自大的地址空间的固定 IP 地址可以提供最简单且最可靠的网络配置,并且,1394 接口中容易访问的 ROM 数据空间允许使用其中的固定 IP 地址。在本发明的另一个实施例中,可使用非固定的 IP(动态)地址,其中,采用一抽象页(例如,名称或查找机制)来保留预组织的通信。

对于 IP 地址配置,可使用下列的协议: (1)带有动态主机配置协议 (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol, DHCP)服务器和 DHCP 客户机的 DHCP, (2)采取自动配置的 DHCP 客户机(DHCP 服务器不出现),以及(3)最好是在下面进一步描述的 FWHCP(Fire-Wire Host Configuration Protocol,法尔-瓦尔主机配置协议)服务器代理程序以及 FWHCP 客户机。第(2)项中所述的自动配置被推荐为 IETF 草案 "draft-ietf-dhc-ipv4-autoconfig-04.txt"。

DHCP 要求 BOOTP/UDP 协议的支持,并且复制在 1394 规范中所做的一切,并提供比如租用时间(lease time)和动态寻址等特征。典型的 DHCP 要求由管理员来管理,并且必须被配置成适配于大批制作的消费电子(consumer electronics, CE)设施的网络要求,其中,例如,必须考虑带有内置的 DHCP 服务器的多个相同的 CE 设施。

1394 技术提供 '插入(Plug-in)'或 '加电(Power-up)'复位功能,并且之后跟随'自标识(Self-ID)'序列,非常适合于网络配置。此外,1394 规范20 提供内置'ROM'地址空间,非常适合于存储并访问配置数据(例如,IP 地址)。因此,在本发明的一个优选实施例中,采用 IP 地址配置代理程序(FWHCP)和发现页,用于使用户控制各 1394 设备。FWHCP 提供用于 1394WEB 和 1394设备的 IP 地址配置。FWHCP 的目的和结果类似于 DHCP(即,识别和分配本地 IP 地址的服务器),但在操作中,FWHCP 采用 1394 地址空间中的数据25 和 1394 命令。FWHCP 提供 1394WEB 设备在 1394 网络上的 IP 地址配置,避免与相邻连接的非 1394的网络上的设备发生冲突。各设备是利用在 10.x.x.x 范围内的内置 IP 地址制作的。在发生不希望的冲突事件时,FWHCP 设置新的 IP 地址并将其保存在设备中。

DHCP/自动配置可被用于非 1394 的网络上的设备。DHCP 协议提供给客户机"请求的 IP 地址"。最好,所请求的 IP 地址空间是从 24 位 RFC 1918 范围的上面部分(从 10.128.1.1 到 10.254.254.254)选择的。通过对 1394 IP 地



址选择所允许专用地址范围的一部分以及对另一些配置方法(例如,DHCP和 DHCP/自动配置)选择另一部分,则会对不同种类的网络生成兼容和不兼容地址并允许 FWHCP和 DHCP共存。

尽管对 1394 和相邻网络选择非重叠 IP 地址是人们所希望的,但不同种类的网络即使它们真的重叠也会利用 FWHCP 来成功配置。此外,DHCP 客户机在使用所分配的 IP 地址之前,利用测试 ARP 消息来对该地址进行检验。这样,不同的地址配置方法可以成功地共存。

<网络方案(Scenarios)和地址管理>

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10 参照图 8,将描述按照本发明的用于在 IP 地址配置的 1394 网络(例如, 网络 300)和非 1394 网络(例如,以太网 119)之间进行通信的处理过程的例子。在此情况下,1394 网络 300 采用 FWHCP 配置,而非 1394 网络 119 采用 DHCP 配置或其它方法。一般来说,1394 设备(比如图 7 中的 DTV 和 DVCR)不支持 DHCP。1394 DEVICE-3 用于 1394 网络到非 1394 网络通信,包括 1394 ROM 空间中的 IP 地址并且为 1394 设备提供对 FWHCP 的支持。DEVICE-3 还包括用于支持非 1394 网络上的配置机构的装置,并且保持 1394 ROM 空间中的扩充数据叶(leaf),用于非 1394 网络上的设备的 IP 地址。因此,1394 网络 300 上的配置处理(例如,用于顶层 UI 描述文件生成的 FWHCP)可包括通过从扩充数据叶选择 IP 地址来使用非 1394 网络上的 IP 地址。非 1394 网络

按照发现处理(代理程序),1394 规范'插入'复位和自标识可被用来进行配置,并且可被用于 IP 地址配置。优选的是,将固定 IP 寻址方式用于家庭网络,然而,也可以使用动态 IP 寻址方式。在 1394WEB 控制中不需要 DNS,因为顶层 GUI 描述文件是利用超链接来创建的,这种超链接使用 IP 地址而不是名称。优选的是,利用 1394 ROM 数据和 1394 命令,将 1394 网络的 IP 配置代理程序(FWHCP)用于 IP 配置,然而,也可以采用 DHCP。FWHCP 使用 RFC 1918 10.LH.X.X 地址的下半部分,而其它家庭网络(非 1394)使用上半部分 10.UH.X.X。优选的是,FWHCP 服务器代理程序内置于任何设备中,该设备可以是客户机(控制发起者)。在有数个客户机设备连接到 1394 网络的情况下,仅仅是具有最高环球唯一标识(Global Unique Identification,GUID)的客户机设备才进行操作。GUID 包含内置到接口的一号码。如果在



1394WEB 网络上有多个可用的 FWHCP 代理程序,则由初始自选处理来确 定一个即将运行的代理程序并且让所有其它代理程序保持静态。最高的 GUID 将运行。在其它形式中,最高位反相的 GUID 可被使用。

接口到非 1394 网络的设备支持该非 1394 网络上的 IP 地址的 ROM 扩 充叶。这就允许将非 1394 网络上的 IP 地址包括在 1394 顶层 GUI 中(例如, 图 4A-B 中, GUI 202、204)。1394 ROM 空间的控制数据位用于控制三个配 置代理程序的操作: (1)1394 自标识(Self-ID)计数, (2)IP 配置 FWHCP, 和(3) 下面将进一步描述的 UI 描述文件生成。

起初,1394 自标识计数发现存在的设备。在总线复位(由功率上升/下降 10 (power up/down)或者设备连接/拆卸引起)之后,设备中的 1394 软件观测自动 配置处理(1394 自标识循环),以便对设备号码计数。这是用于任何 1394 设 备的 1394 软件的正常处理部分。然后, IP 配置 FWHCP(一个自选的 FWHCP) 深测找到的设备并检验它们内置的 IP 地址。找到的双重(冲突)IP 地址被停 月,并将新地址分配给该设备。然后,UI 描述文件生成代理程序(UI 或其它 设备), 读取所有的 1394WEB 设备 IP 地址, 并在每个设备的顶层图标页以 HTML 生成顶层设备发现图形用户接口文件,所述每个设备的顶层图标页会 在之后由 Web 浏览器呈现,以使用户发现各设备进行控制。

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按照本发明, 1394 网络 400 中的每个设备可生成其自己的顶层网络 UI 描述文件 250(图 9C)。UI 描述文件 250 由客户机设备中的比如浏览器 200 等 的表示引擎使用,以生成和显示比如图 5-6 中的页 220 的顶层发现页。在 1394 自标识代理程序已列举了连接到 1394 网络 300 的所有设备之后,由所有 UI 设备(以及所希望的非UI设备)单独生成顶层UI描述文件250。设备(例如DTV) 可选择更明显(例如,更大)的图标来表示该设备,并以不同外观来制作整个 GUI 220。这种技术对所有设备的操作提供实质上比中央生成的 GUI 更为可 靠的操作,因为每个设备可生成其自己的 UI 描述文件 250 并基于此显示一 25. GUI(例如, 顶层页 220), 不需要依赖于另一设备。在每个 UI 描述文件 250 中, 当前连接到网络 300 的各设备的设备图标和标识语图像文件由图标和标 识语 HTML'页'以及包容在 HTML 页中的名称文本来参考(ICON.'Graphic(图 形)'参考的 ICON.HTM 是在页 202 和 204 中,它们也包括用于设备的控制页; 30 图 5 的下面也示出了顶层目录页中的 ICON.HTM、LOGO.HTM 和 NAME.HTM)。HTML 方框用于按需要在每个网络设备中创建用于各网络设



备的顶层目录 UI 描述文件 250。

因此,有益的是,提供一有用的抽象层,以允许用户修改文件名称和类型,例如,网络设备中的标识符图形,不需要改变在每个设备中生成的顶层描述文件 250。名称文本也置于 HTML 描述文件 202、204(NAME.HTM 是在页 202、204 中)中,允许用户在一设备例如 DTV 上配置名称文本,以便例如通过其中的一个设备 GUI 页 220 改变 DTV-BED2。因此,当浏览器在复位之后被启动时显示页 220。用户查看并点击 DVCR ICON 图形,由此提取(利用'播放'按钮等)DVCR 顶层控制 GUI 202。用户点击其中的一个按钮,例如"配置设备名称",这是另一个具有大量供选择的不同名称的 GUI(是用于 DVCR 的分层控制页的 GUI)。用户从例如"主卧室 DVCR"所提供的名称列表中点击一个名称。设备上的软件改变文件名称,以使命名为NAME.HTM 的文件包含文本"主卧室 DVCR"(原先包含在 DVCR 中的缺省 NAME.HTM 文件被改变成另外的名称)。

在具有太多或者超尺寸的文本或者超尺寸的标识语的'坏市民(bad 15 citizen)'设备的情况下,GUI 220 的外观更为稳定。在此情况下,用方框隔 离该问题,并防止坏项负面影响整个顶层 GUI 220 的外观。

<设备发现体系结构>

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参照图 9A-C、10、11,这些图举例示出了各种功能块、到数据和控制 20 位的连接关系、以及用于上述发现处理的系统体系结构 400 的一个实施例的 流程图。系统400 包括5个主要部件:(1)1394 非易失性存储器空间(IEEE 1212R ROM)402,用于配置数据和控制数据位存储;(2)1394 设备发现代理程序(1394DDA)404;(3)IP 地址配置代理程序(FWHCP)406;(4)UI 描述文件生成代理程序 408;和(5)GUI 生成和运行时间环境 410(例如,图 2 中的 Web 浏 览器 200)。此外,图 10 示出了在系统 400 中用于 DDA 和 FWHCP 代理程序的流程图的例子,系统 400 与图 9A-C 所示的功能块结合操作。并且,图 10 示出了系统 400 中用于 UIDGA 代理程序的流程图的例子,系统 400 与图 9A-C 所示的功能块结合操作。并不见了不完成 400 中用于 UIDGA 代理程序的流程图的例子,系统 400 与图 9A-C 所示的功能块结合操作。

参照图 9A 和 10, 所有的设备都包括 1394 设备发现代理程序 30 (1394DDA)404, 用来在复位之后列举 1394 总线上的各设备,并将值写到本地 1394 ROM 空间 402 中,用于将该值传送到其它功能性代理程序(步骤 500、

502)。对于其它配置代理程序的同步(约束)开始,1394DDA 代理程序 404 还设置'配置操作'控制位。发现代理程序/机制可使用器件而不是 ROM 空间来在配置代理程序之间传送信息,这些配置代理程序对于一个设备来说是本地的,并且,其中的信息不需要由其它设备查看。

<所有设备中的 1394 ROM 数据>

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网络 300 中的所有设备包括与发现和 IP 地址代理程序 404 和 406 分别 相关的下列信息, 用于 1394 配置 ROM 402 中的 1394WEB: (1)内置 64 位 GUID(在 1394 规范中的环球唯一 ID); (2)来自范围为从'10.1.1.1'到 10 '10.127.254.254'的 RFC 1918 专用地址空间的内置 IP 地址。制造商可以 从 GUID 中选择一值,以使冲突的机会最小化。专用地址空间的上半部分(即 10.128.1.1 到 10.254.254.254)保留给桥接网络上的设备; (3)在范围'10.1.1.1' 到'10.127.254.254'内分配的 IP 地址(通过操作 FWHCP 代理程序 406 分配); (4)用于桥接网络上的IP设备的IP地址扩充叶;(5)1394设备的分配的计数 (由 1394DDA 代理程序 404 分配); (6)控制/状态位,用于指示用于 1394 设备发 现代理程序 404 的配置进程同步控制,并用于指示 IP 地址配置(控制位指示 配置正在进行中,因此,在 ROM 数据而不是控制位中的用于 1394DDA 和 IP 地址的各值不被检验或者写入,因此也不应当被使用)。这些位进一步指示 哪个 IP 地址为有效(分配的或者内置的), 并且 FWHCP 服务器代理程序 406 20 是否出现在设备中:(7)HTTP web 服务器,允许设备文件空间中的文件被远 程访问:和(8)包括实际'图标'、'名称'和'标识语'HTML 文件的设备 信息 202、204 和其它可通过 Web 服务器访问的参考图形文件。上面汇总的 信息详述在下面的 1394 ROM 空间描述文件中。

<IEEE 1212 配置 ROM>

通用 1394 ROM 结构 402 的内容规定在 IEEE1212r、IEEE1212 和 IEC61883 中。ROM 结构 402 是分层信息块,其中该分层结构中较高的块指 向它们下面的块。初始块的位置是固定的,而其它项目取决于零售商 (vendor),但可由更高块中的项目规定。

表 3 示出配置 ROM 402 的 Bus_Info_Block(总线信息块)和 Root Directorv(根目录)。每一项目的第一字节被称为密钥(kev)并识别项目的



类型。下面的各项可以在使用 EIA-775 规范的所有设备的配置 ROM 中完成, 这些设备包括诸如 DTV 的显示设备和诸如 DVCR、STB 等的源设备。根据 每个设备所遵守的其它协议,可以有几种所需的其它结构。表 3 包括用于也 符合 IEC61883 协议的设备的信息。Root_directory 包含用于一个 Model_Directory(模型目录)和三个 Unit_Directory(单元目录)项目(IEC61883、 EIA-775 和 1394WEB)的指针,用来指示该设备支持 EIA-775 以及 1394WEB 协议。根目录项目有助于其它 1394 设备发现由该 1394 设备支持的协议和软 件(也称为服务)。

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<表 3 - 配置 ROM> 偏移值(基地址 FFFF F000 0000) Bus info block(总线信息块)

04 0016	04	crc_l	ength(crc 长度)	rom_crc_value	
04 0416			" 1394 "		
04 0816	标志	保留	cyc_clk_acc	max_rec	保留
04 0C ₁₆		node_vendor_	id(节点零售商标i	识符)	chip_id_hi
04 1016			chip_id_lo		

其中,040C₁₆和0410₁₆也称为64位GUID或者环球唯一ID。

Root directory(根目录)

泊铁坊

偏移值			
04 14 ₁₆	ro	ot_length(根长度)	CRC
:	0316	model_vendor_id(模型等	华售商标识符)
	81,6	vendor_name_textual_de 符)偏移值	escriptor(零售商名称原文本描述
	0C ₁₆	node_capabilities(节点化	生能)
	8D ₁₆	node_unique_id (节点型	一标识符)偏移值
	D1 ₁₆	Unit_directory(单元目素	k)偏移值(IEC 61883)



	D1,6	Unit_directory(单元目录)偏移值(EIA-775)
	D1 ₁₆	Unit_directory(单元目录)偏移值(1394WEB)
·	可选择的	
XX XX ₁₆	C3 ₁₆	Model_Directory(模型目录)偏移值

IEC_61883 单元目录示于表 4 中。该目录由根目录(即表 3)中的 Unit_Directory 偏移值参考。在 Unit_SW_Version(单元 SW 版本)字段中,最低有效位规定 AV/C(0),就象在 IEC 61883 中所规定的。

<表 5 - IEC_61883 单元目录>

Unit Directory(单元目录)(IEC_61883)

目录长度		CRC
216	Unit_Spec_ID(单元规范	.标识符)(1394TA=00 A0 2D ₁₆)
3,6	Unit_SW_Version(第一	通过密钥=01,6)
••.	<<其它可能的字段>>	
•••		

EIA-775 单元目录示于表 6 中。下面的 EIA-775 规定信息出现在 EIA-775 10 单元目录中。

<表6-EIA-775 单元目录>

目录长度		CRC
1216	Unit_specification_ID(单元规范标识符)(EIA-775=005068 ₁₆)
1316	Unit_software_version	(单元软件版本)(01010016)
•••	<<其它可能的字段>>	
•••		·

Unit_specification_ID 规定负责设备的体系结构接口的组织和规范的身 15 份(identity)。在本例的情况下,目录和身份值=005068₁₆指的是 EIA 作为负责者并且指出 EIA-775 控制体系结构规范。



Unit_software_version 标明由设备支持的 EIA-775 版本级。其格式示于表7中。

<表7-Unit software_version编码>

第一个八位字节(octet)	01 ₁₆	•	·
第二个八位字节	主要版本号(当前为0116)	•	
第三个八位字节	次要版本号(当前为 0016)		·

1394WEB 单元目录示于表 7a 中。下面的 1394WEB 具体信息出现在 1394WEB 单元目录中。

<表 7a-1394WEB 单元目录>

	目录长度	CRC
12,6	Unit_specification_ID((单元规范标识符)(1394WEB =00XXXX ₁₆)
13,6	Unit_software_version	i(单元软件版本)(010100 ₁₆)
38 ₁₆	Discovery_control_bit	s(发现控制位)
39 ₁₆ ;	Assigned_Count_of_1.	394_devices(分配的 1394 设备计数数值)
3A ₁₆	IP_Address_Build_in((内置的 IP 地址)
3B ₁₆	IP_Address_Assigned	(分配的 IP 地址)
	IP_Address_Extension_	Leaf(IP 地址扩充叶)
16	<<其它可能的字段>>	

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Unit_specification_ID 规定负责单元的体系结构接口的组织和规范的身份。在本例的情况下,目录和身份值=00XXXX₁₆ 指出负责者并且指出1394WEB 控制体系结构规范。

Unit_software_version 标明由设备支持的 1394WEB 版本级。其格式示 15 于表 8 中。



第一个八位字节(octet) 0116 第二个八位字节 主要版本号(当前为 0116) 第三个八位字节 次要版本号(当前为0016)

-<Discovery control bits(发现控制位)(3816)>

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由 IEEE 1212R 规范章节 8.8 所允许的密钥值(3816)用作 Discovery control bits 即时值,该密钥值专用于目录和体系结构的所有者。

<表 9 - Discovery control bits >

; ,				FWHCP Server Agent	Configuration oper	ating.Do not	Which IP address?
				(FWHCP 服务器代	use(if True) (配置:	运行.不使用	(哪个 IP 地址?)
				理程序)	(如为真))		
x				Yes=1	1394 Dev. Count	IP-Address	Assigned_1Built-
	:1.				(1394 设备计数)	(IP 地址)	in_0
31	6	5	4	3	2	1	0(LSB)

这些是在 1394 ROM 空间 402 中可以由本地和远程设备访问的控制位。 这些控制位由 IP 地址配置代理程序 406 和用户接口描述文件生成代理程序 408 使用,如下面所进一步描述的。

在本发明的一个实施例中,所述控制位提供下列信息:

位 0 - Which IP address(哪个 IP 地址?) - 指示使用了或者正在使用哪个 IP 地址,即,内置地址(=FALSE(伪))或者分配的地址(=TRUE(真))。这是通 过操作 IP 配置代理程序 FWHCP 406 来设定的。

位 1、2 - Configuration Operation Do not use (配置操作不使用) - 当被设 15 定时,指示 1394 设备发现处理并且单独指示 IP 配置代理程序 404 和 406 分 别运行,因此,如果它们可以改变或者尚未写入,所指出的各值为无效。这 些位是由本地(设备)1394DDA 代理程序 404 设置的。1394DDA 代理程序 404 清除 1394 Dev. Count(设备计数)位,并且运行 FWHCP 代理程序 406 清除 IP 地址位。

位 3 _ 出现 FWHCP 服务器代理程序 406 ~ 是在设备具有可操作的



FWHCP 代理程序 406 时设置的。该位和 GUID 是由 FWHCP 代理程序 406 使用的,用杂确定哪一个 FWHCP 代理程序 406 将运行。

Assigned_Count_of_1394_devices(分配的 1394 设备计数) (39₁₆) - 网络 300 中各 1394 设备的计数的分配的即时值。该计数是在 1394 接口通过其自标识循环时所进行的。1394 设备发现代理程序 404 生成该值,该值被存储在 ROM 空间 403 中,用于以后分别由 IP 和 UI 配置代理程序 406 和 408 使用。

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IP_Address_Build_in(內置的 IP 地址) (3A₁₆) - 分配的即时值。该地址是在制造时分配的并且被內置到设备中。如果该內置地址不能使用,則在分配的地址空间中存储替换的地址并且设置控制位来指示这种情况。

 $IP_Address_Assigned(分配的 IP 地址) (3B_{16}) - 分配的即时值。如果检测到相同的 IP 地址,则 IP 地址配置代理程序 FWHCP 406 分配该地址以避免冲突。此外,设置控制位来指示这种情况。$

IP_Address_Extension Leaf_for attached_network(用于附加网络的 IP 地址 扩充叶)(BC₁₆) - 该目录项目是用于对于 IP 地址扩充表(参看表 10)的数据叶的地址偏移值。所述数据叶包含用于所连接的非 1394 网络(但也可以是桥接的 1394 网络)上的各设备的 IP 地址。所述表包括在连接通向外来(非 1394)网络的那些类型的通信设备(例如,网桥)中。所述表可被扩充为包括能满足需要的诸多 IP 地址。所述通信设备本身的地址不应被包括在该表中。

'<表 10 - IP Address Extension Leaf(IP 地址扩充叶)>

叶长度 -1(n)16	CRC-16 ₁₆	
IP 地址 l		
•••		
IP 地址 n		

对于用于发现控制位的控制字,使用用于实际发现控制位字的 ROM 项目作为这里定义的字只不过是一种示例性实现方式。ROM 没有被设计成可 25 以有效写入(即,ROM 区域必须被擦除,并且对这些区域的写入相对于其它 硬件比如寄存器来说要慢)。在 1394 硬件中提供了寄存器,用于必须被频繁 写 入 的 数 据 。 在 另 一 种 形 式 中 , 1394 寄 存 器 可 被 用 于



'Discovrey_control_bits(发现控制位)'控制字。寄存器处于也可以由其它设 备访问的空间中,由此,另一设备可在 ROM 中查找该寄存器的地址,然后 对该寄存器进行写入。

参照图 9B, 一个或多个设备包括 IP 地址配置代理程序(FWHCP)406(例 如,所有的 UI 设备和网关设备以及可以作为控制发起者的任何其它设备)。 FWHCP 配置代理程序 406 访问跨越 1394 网络 300 的 1394 ROM 402 的数据 中的所有设备的 IP 地址值。对于其它应用程序(例如, UI 描述文件生成程序) 开始的同步开始和结束, FWHCP 代理程序 406 也访问'配置运行'控制位。

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参照图 9C, 能够显示用户接口的设备以及一些其它设备(例如, 网关设 备)可包括用于例如以 HTML 生成顶层 UI 描述文件 250 的 UI 描述文件生成 代理程序 408。由于如上面所详述的,每个网络 300 仅有一个 IP 配置代理程 序 406 进行操作,因此不需要所有的设备都包括 IP 配置代理程序 406,尽管 所有的设备可以包括 IP 配置代理程序 406。如果一设备具有运行中的 IP 配 置代理程序 406 并且是用户接口设备,则该 IP 配置代理程序必须在 UI 描述 文件生成代理程序之前进行操作。UI 描述文件生成代理程序(UI description generation agent, UIDGA)408 利用包括在 1394 ROM 空间 402 中所定义的控 制位的信息以及其它信息(例如,对于确定哪个 FWHCP 进行操作来说是表 3 的 Bus Info_Block(总线信息块)的环球唯一 ID(GUID)), 用来确定哪个 IP 配 置代理程序 406(如果在网络中有多个的话)进行操作、使启动同步,并用于 访问使用中的 IP 地址。任何设备都可以具有并操作一 UIDGA,以便制作 HN_Directory(HN 目录)页(顶层发现页)。在 IP 地址被配置之后, UIDGA 读 取这些地址,以便制作 HN_Directory 页。在每个客户机设备中,当 UI 描述 文件的生成结束时,GUI 生成和运行时间环境 410(例如,图 2 中的 Web 浏 览器 200)利用 UI 描述 HTML 文件 250 来访问所有设备的用于图标、名称和 标识语的 HTTP 文件空间(Icon.HTM、Name.HTM 和 Logo.HTM 包含在多个 页 204 或者一个页 204 中), 以便在该客户机设备中生成用来显示的全顶层 GUI 220。在从各设备访问文件(例如, Icon.HTM、Name.HTM 和 Logo.HTM) 的处理过程中,以及在依次进行的访问这些文件所参考的任何附加文件(例 如,ICON.GIF和 LOGO.GIF)的过程中,Web 浏览器利用 HTML 文件 250 来 呈现实际的 GUI 图形。 30



<1394 设备发现代理程序(1394DDA)>

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参照图 9A-9C 和 10,如前面所讨论的,网络 300 中的每个 1394WEB 设备可包括设备发现代理程序 404。设备发现代理程序 404 列举连接到 1394 总线的 1394 地址空间中的 1394 设备,其中原始的(raw)发现是在 1394 硬件中执行的。自标识和物理节点号码分配及其步骤是由接口硬件/固件执行的基本发现处理。所有的设备都监测自标识循环,并记录存在的 1394 设备。这是用于任何 1394 设备的 1394 软件的一部分:(1)复位 - 在设备加电、设备连接和设备拆卸时,总线复位传播到所有的接口,(2)树识别 - 将一简单的网络拓扑结构(net topology)转换为树,以建立一 ROOT(根),该 ROOT 是特定功能的主文件(master):总线循环主文件、总线时间的仲裁过程中的最高优先权,(3)自识别 - 分配物理节点号(地址)并且还与邻居交换速度性能。最高标号的节点具有竞争者位和链接位这两者,并且是同步资源管理器。

发现代理程序 404 将各设备的最终计数值写入 1394 ROM 空间中,以使其与其它代理程序进行通信。设备发现代理程序 404 是在 1394 复位循环之后所执行的第一个软件代理程序,而控制位(发现控制位 2 和 1、配置操作: 1394DDA 和 IP_Address(IP 地址))用于使其它代理程序延迟执行,这些代理程序包括配置代理程序 406 和 408,直到发现代理程序 404 已经执行完毕为止。

在一个实施例中,每个设备中的 1394DDA 代理程序 404 执行步骤 500、502,包括:(1)在设备的自身 1394 ROM 空间 402 中设置同步控制位(即, 1394DDA 正在进程中,以及'IP 配置正在进程中,位),用来指示 1394DDA 正在进程中以及 IP 配置正在进程中(如果 1394DDA 正在执行,则 IP 配置不会是正在进程中),并且指示 1394 设备计数以及 IP 地址的值无效,由此使所述控制位禁止其它代理程序(例如,408)永久运行;这样,1394 DDA 执行,然后是所选出的 FWHCP 执行,再后是(通常是对于 UI 设备)UIDGA 执行;(2)在 1394 复位之后对 1394 自识别序列的数目进行计数,以找出设备的数目并有效地找出它们的本地节点地址,以便由其它代理程序 406、408 使用;(3)将设备计数值写入设备的自身 1394 ROM 空间 402 中;以及(4)清除(例如,使变为伪)设备的自身 1394 ROM 空间 402 中用于'1394DDA 正在进程中'的同步控制位,其中'IP 配置正在进程中'位保持设置值,并在后面通过操作 FWHCP 代理程序 406 来清除。

利用网络通信(网桥)设备中的 IP 地址列表来进行配置的其它的体系结构是可行的。例如,桥接网络(例如,非 1394 网络)上设备的 IP 地址的 IP 地址列表可通过另外的方式被检查,即在 IP 配置阶段通过 FWHCP 代理程序 406来检查,而不是仅仅在 UIDGA 阶段由 UIDGA 代理程序 408 来检查。这就允许 FWHCP 代理程序 406 检测和校正地址冲突,并因此允许进行操作,不需要具有两个独立定义的地址范围,这两个地址范围中的一个用于 1394 网络 300,另一个用于非 1394 网络 119。地址冲突的校正可以通过修改有冲突的 1394 设备的地址来完成,因为桥接网络 IP 地址列表不能由上述用于 1394网络 300 的代理程序 406、408 来修改。如果 FWHCP 代理程序 406 可以在地址被允许在 1394 网络 300 上使用之前为检验冲突而检验桥接网络 119 中的地址,则配置会更加可靠。

<IP 地址配置代理程序(FWHCP 代理程序)>

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参照图 9A-C 和 10, IP 地址配置软件代理程序(FWHCP)406 操作时可以提供'固定'IP 地址管理并检测和校正大批量生产的 1394 设备中的 IP 地址冲突。所有的 1394WEB UI 设备都包括(并且其它的设备可以包括)FWHCP代理程序 406。然而,在网络中仅有一个 FWHCP 代理程序 406 进行操作。1394DDA 404 代理程序是在 1394 复位循环之后所执行的第一个软件代理程序,并且,如上面所提到的,1394DDA 404 代理程序设置'1394DDA 正在进程中'和'IP 配置正在进程中'位,以延迟 FWHCP 代理程序 406,直到1394DDA 代理程序 404 已经执行完毕为止。

在一个实施例中,设备中的 IP 地址配置代理程序 406 执行一些步骤,这些步骤包括轮询 1394DDA 配置操作控制位(即,'1394DDA 正在进程中'位),以确定 1394DDA 配置软件代理程序 404 是否已经执行完毕。如果是这25 样,则 FWHCP 代理程序 406 使用由 1394 DDA 代理程序 404 确定的设备计数,并从每个设备中读取 GUID 和控制字(步骤 504),以确定网络 300 中的哪个设备被选择执行其 FWHCP 代理程序 406(步骤 506)。所选择的设备是具有 FWHCP 代理程序 406 的设备,该 FWHCP 代理程序 406 发现其具有最高的 GUID(步骤 508)。其它设备中的所有其它 FWHCP 代理程序 406 都保持体30 眠状态(步骤 510)。运行中的 FWHCP 代理程序 406 从每个本地节点(例如,出现在接口上的单元,主机)读取'在使用中(in-use)'(有效)的 IP 地址(由

Discovery_control_bits(发现控制位)位 0 确定)并列表(步骤 512)。在一种形式中,软件代理程序列出一个用于将 IP 地址以它们被读出的原样保存到'阵列'中的列表(步骤 514-518)。该列表在编译器和 OS 的控制下存储在存储器(RAM 或者 DRAM)中。正使用状态是由设置于设备中的一位确定的,该位指示内置或者分配的地址是否在使用中。在表 7 中,IP_address_assigned(分配的 IP 地址)和 IP_address_built_in(内置的 IP 地址)在 1394Web 单元目录中。

运行中的 FWHCP 代理程序 406 在列表于其中的 IP 地址中检查所述列表中有无冲突(也可以使用其它的冲突检测和决策方法)(步骤 520-522)。如果检测到冲突,则 FWHCP 代理程序例如通过用 IP 地址的最低有效 6 位来替代它们的 6 位节点地址来改变冲突的地址(步骤 524)。仅执行最少数目的改变以避免冲突。如果冲突地址中的一个已经是分配的地址,则例如通过递增6 位替代值对冲突内置地址优先改变上述地址,并且重新检查,直到解决冲突为止。FWHCP 代理程序 406 将改变的值写回到设备,并且将控制位(Discovery_control_bits:位0)设置为指示所分配的 IP 地址在使用中,并且不再使用内置缺省值(步骤 526)。对每个 IP 地址重复所述处理(步骤 528)。在冲突决策处理之后,运行中的 FWHCP 代理程序 406 轮流访问每个设备,并将每个设备中的'IP 配置正在进程中,位例如设置成'伪',以指示所指示的IP地址为有效。

20 <UI 描述文件生成代理程序>

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在常规的 WWW 操作中,用户访问相同的顶层页。然而,参照图 4B、7和 9-11,按照本发明的一个方面,所有的 UI 设备(例如,能够显示用户接口的设备)都包括 UI 描述文件生成代理程序(UI description generation agent, UIDGA)408,用以独立生成顶层 UI 页 220,以便由用户控制局域网(例如,25 网络 100、网络 300 等)上的设备。在一个例子中,客户机设备(例如,PC)动态生成本地保存的缺省页 220,用于让用户控制连接到网络 100 的设备。这就允许每个 UI 设备(例如,DTV 102)例如使用用于所显示的各 UI 设备的更大更明显的图标来生成家庭网络的不同视图 220。这样,用户就能真正意识到哪个 UI 设备'正在这里'(在用户前面),或者,在室外访问的情况下,20 没有设备是'正在这里'。没有 UI 的设备可以生成用于另一个设备的 UI,但不能意识到该设备的类型(例如,电缆调制解调器生成用于室外 HN 设备

的 UI)。在此情况下,实际的 UI 设备是未知的。因此,在 GUI 中没有重要 的特定设备。此外,连接到网络 100 的各设备的制造商们可以按需要将他们 自己的 GUI 设计 202、204 提供于每个设备中。这以后就不会由现有的技术 · 阻碍改进的浏览器和 Web 技术设计。

无 UI 的设备,尤其是那些执行网关功能的设备,也可以包括用来生成 顶层 GUI 描述文件 250 的 UI 描述文件生成代理程序 408,不包括用以生成 和显示 GUI 220 的 GUI 生成和运行时间处理程序 410(例如, Web 浏览器 200)。 由于使用适当的地址(例如,使用本地 HN 上的 RFC1918 专用地址),可以允 许外部 WWW 访问 1394WEB 网络设备。外部地址是分配的适合于因特网使 用的'真实的'IP 地址。通常来讲,存在具有 UIDGA 408 的单元(例如,网 关类型单元),表示家庭到外部因特网的连接。这种网关的 UIDGA 利用家庭 的 IP 地址生成用于外部使用的不同的 UI 描述文件(远程访问情况不同于内 部本地设备使用), 所述家庭的 IP 地址具有扩充的链路, 用来识别是哪个家 电设备本地专用 IP 地址。

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UI 设备执行下列软件处理,以生成和显示网络 100/300 的显示外观 220: (1)上面所述的 1394 设备发现代理程序 404, (2)UI 描述文件生成代理程序 (UIDGA)408, 和(3)GUI 生成和运行时间(例如, Web 浏览器 200)处理程序 410。参照图 11,在一个实施例中,设备中的 UIDGA 代理程序 408 执行一 些步骤,其中包括:在访问任何进一步的 IP 信息之前,轮询该设备自身 1394 20 ROM 402 中的 IP 地址配置位,以确保完成 FWHCP 代理程序 406(步骤 600)。 当完成 FWHCP 代理程序 406 时,利用由 1394 DDA 代理程序 404 生成的设 备的计数,UIDGA 代理程序 408 访问当前连接到网络的每个设备的控制字, 以确定将'配置操作'设置为伪,并将 IP 地址位设置为'在使用中'(UIDGA 代理程序 408 制作顶层 HTML 页、HN_Directory(HN 目录)页 220, 例如在 25 图 5-6 中所示的页)。之后, UIDGA 代理程序 408 读取实际的在使用中的 IP 地址值,并建立当前连接到网络 300 的各设备的 IP 地址的完整列表。该 IP 地址列表包括来自每个设备的信息(例如,图标、标识语、名称等)并且是利 用每个设备的 IP 地址以 HTML 写成的。在其可包括地址之前,UIDGA 408 通过访问每个设备并检验查看哪个地址处于在使用中来找出每个设备的地 址,所述检验查看是通过读取表 9 中的 discovery_control_bit 控制位(位 0)来 完成的。UIDGA 408 读取表 7 中内置或者分配的地址。对于与桥接网络通



信的设备,就象由该设备的 1394 ROM 402 中的现有的扩充 IP 地址列表项目所确定的那样,UIDGA 代理程序 408 从列表(IP_Address_Extension_Leaf(IP 地址扩充叶))中读取扩充 IP 地址,以允许那些设备被包括在 GUI 220 中。项目 BC(IP_Address_Extension_Leaf)包含指向实际数据叶的参考链路地址。在所连接的桥接网络上的各设备仅包括在 IP_Address_Extension_Leaf 列表中,其条件是他们也支持 1394WEB 类型的服务,即他们具有 Web 服务器以及 Icon.HTM 等和控制页(index.htm)。

UIDGA 代理程序 408 读取 IP 地址列表(步骤 602), 并且利用该 IP 地址 列表例如以HTML(例如,附录1)生成顶层网络UI描述文件250(图9C)(UIDGA 输出 HN Directory、顶层网络 UI 页、HTML 文件)(步骤 604)。UIDGA 代理 程序 408 将超链接中的 IP 地址使用于每个设备的 icon.htm、name.htm 和 logo.htm 文件。UIDGA 将包括参考文件的 HTML 文件写入到每个找到的设 备的 HTML 页,即 ICON.HTM、NAME.HTM、LOGO.HTM(例如,附录 2、 3、4)。然后,UIDGA 代理程序 408 利用 HTML 文件而在顶层 UI 描述文件 250 中查阅包括图标和标识语图形文件以及名称数据的项目,而不是包括原 始 icon.gif 或 logo.gif 及原始名称文本的项目(步骤 606)。这就允许所述项目 被相应的设备改变,以反映由制造商客户化或者由设备的用户配置的当前状 态,并且不会造成控制 UI 设备中顶层 HTML UI 描述文件 250 中的任何变化。 尽管在示例的 GUI 页 220 中示出了每个设备有一个图形(图 5-6), 客户化能 允许包括由 ICON.HTM 或者 LOGO.HTM 参照的多于一个的图形文件,以及 NAME.HTM 中的更多个文本。在一个实施例中,各 HTML 方框(frames)被 用于完成 UI 描述文件 250, 就象下面进一步描述的例子所说明的。使用方 框能使'坏公民'设备的事件中 GUI 220 的出现更加稳定。例如,一个在其 ·名称·方框中出现太多字或者过大文本的设备仅仅会影响该设备的 GUI 外观(会有一些截短和不显示的字), 并且不会负面影响 UI 设备中整个顶层 GUI 220 的外观。然后, UIDGA调用客户机设备中的GUI生成处理程序410(例 如,浏览器)来生成和显示用户接口(步骤 608)。

<GUI 生成和运行时间处理程序>

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GUI 生成处理程序 410(例如, Web 浏览器 200)利用例如 HTML 的 UI 描述文件 250 来生成 UI 设备上的 GUI 页 220。在一个例子中, 为对消费电

子设备(例如,DTV)提供无键盘的操作,浏览器 200 在开始默认读取和呈现本地生成的'top-level-devices.html(顶层设备.html)'描述文件 250,以生成网络顶层控制 GUI 220。这里所使用的"本地"意味着在相同的设备(具有生成网络设备的设备本身的 HN 目录(顶层)GUI 的 UIDGA 的 UI 设备)中。HN 目录、顶层网络 UI 和发现页是相同的。这对于具有键盘的个人计算机(PC)来说不必是默认的。对于 CE 设备来说,浏览器 200 的启动被延迟到由 UIDGA 代理程序 408 完成 UIDGA 缺省页 250 的生成之后。在 UIDGA 代理程序 408 不能完成其任务的情况下,浏览器 200 则会显示说明发生网络配置错误的另一个 UI 页 220(例如,"由于 xxxxxxx 而不能生成 HN_Directory 页。请尝试断接设备 xxxxxxxx。发生网络配置错误号为 xxxxxxx。联系服务为:电话服务xxx-xxx-xxxx 或者 Web 服务 http://www.service.com.")。

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为生成 GUI 220,浏览器 200 在每个所参照的设备中从设备信息 202、204(即,在 UI 描述文件中,其中例如 ICON.HTM 是在 HN_Directory 页 HTML 文件中)中提取'icon.htm'、'name.htm'和'logo.htm'文件,就象由 HTML UI 描述文件 250 所定义的那样。这些页 202、204 的内容(例如,图标图形)在用户客户化之后不需要是静态的,也不能被动态改变来反映设备状态变化。为显示最新的顶层页 220,浏览器 200 不对'icon.htm'、'name.htm'和'logo.htm'文件进行高速缓冲(cache)。在另一种形式中,总是先进行检验,以确定设备是否已对其拥有的 HTML 文件 202、204 做了任何改变。HTTP"条件性获得"用于检验被控设备的状态。根据返回的状态代码,浏览器 200 从其高速缓冲存储器(cache)中进行读取,或者从设备中提取新的或已更新的HTML 文件 202、204 的复制件。HWW GUI 显示器不会受影响,除非被控设备中有任何变化。

浏览器 200 在顶层 HN 目录完全生成之前不打算显示该顶层 HN 目录。如果 HTML 250 在某个合理的时间量之内没有生成,则浏览器显示一替换页。如果网络配置错误是问题的根源,则该替换页可以提供技术支持或者用户诊断帮助。

无论何时用户返回到顶层 HN 目录或者使其被刷新,浏览器 200 都重新显示页 220 的整体。这是必须的,因为作为顶层 HN 目录的基础的 HTML250 可能在向网络 100 添加设备或从网络 100 去除设备的情况下已被重新生成。也可能更新设备图标,以反映它们的设备操作状态的变化。这样,由 EIA-775.1



设备实现的浏览器使用 HTTP "条件性获得"请求来确定 web 页或者图形的新复制件是否是从服务器中恢复的。

在这个方面,本发明提供了一种用户接口描述文件,其中完全利用参考 文件(即在摘要中)进行设备的用户发现,其中这些参考文件是用于每个设备 的寻找信息(例如,文本和/或图形)的'容器(containers)'并且驻留在每个设 备上。每个'容器'包括实际的原文信息和/或对于一个或多个图形格式信 息文件的参考文件,其中每个文件可包括一个或多个图像和/或文本。使用 参考文件'容器'能允许每个设备选择其优选的 UI 内容或图形格式或者改 变其要显示的 UI 内容(通过改变所参照的文本或图形信息来进行),而不需 要以任何方式改变 UI 描述文件页。因此,不需要改变与发现 UI 描述文件的 10 生成代理软件进行的通信。在一种形式中,设备参考它们的例如 ICON 和 LOGO 图形文件,这些文件间接使用通过用 HTML 方框创建网络顶层描述 文件形成的 HTML 文件。类似地,显示在图标下的设备名称由 NAME HTML 文件来表示。HTML 文件用于参考比如图标和标识语图形文件以及名称数 据,而不包括原始 icon.gif 或者 logo.gif 和原始名称文本。这就允许该项目 15 被改变以反映由制造商客户化或者由设备的用户配置的当前状态,并且不会 造成顶层 HTML 描述文件中的任何变化。这种层次的抽取允许顶层 UI 描述 文件始终相同,而不管要显示的图形 ICON 和 LOGO 文件名称和类型及 NAME 文本。此外,设备也可以用于不同地、多样地或者动态地改变显示在 顶层 GUI 中的图形文件和文本,并且不需要改变与 UIDGA 的通信。每当 GUI 20 重新显示时都会自动包括该变化。在使用非显示图形或文本的'坏公民'设 备的情况下,使用方框也能使 GUI 显示更加稳定,因为错误被限制到特定 的方框并且不影响整个 GUI。每当 GUI 重新显示时都会自动包括该变化

参照附录 1-4, 其中提供了用于下列各项的示例: (1)顶层页描述文件 250(附录 1);(2)Background.htm(附录 2);(3)Icon.htm(附录 3);和(4)Name.htm(附录 4)。

尽管上面已参照本发明的优选实施例对本发明进行了描述,但本发明也可以有其它形式。因此,所附的权利要求书不应当被限定为对这里所含的优选形式的描述。

工业应用性

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按照本发明的用于在连接到网络系统的多个多种设备中生成用户接口的



方法和系统可应用于具有所连接的多媒体设备的家庭网络,其中所述用户接口用于控制连接到一网络的各设备。所述多媒体设备可包括 PC、VCR、摄录机、DVD和 HDTV 等。



附录1- 项层页例子

30 NORESIZE>

<HTML> <HEAD> 5 <TITLE>HN Devices Page</TITLE> </HEAD> <FRAMESET ROWS="2%, 47%,2%, 22.5%,2%,22.5%, 2%" border=0 color=black> <NOFRAMES>Sorry does not support frames</NOFRAMES> 10 <FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%"> <FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE> </FRAMESET> <FRAMESET COLS="1.2%,23.5%,1.2%.48.2%,1.2%,23.5%,1.2%"> 15 <FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%"> <FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE> </FRAMESET> <FRAMESET ROWS="48%,4%,48%"> <FRAMESET ROWS="73%, 27%"> SCROLLING="no" <FRAME SRC="http://10.1.1.1/icon.htm" 20 NORESIZE> <FRAME SRC=" http://10.1.1.1/name.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE> </FRAMESET> 25 <FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%"> <FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE> <FRAMESET ROWS="73%, 27%" >

<FRAME SRC=" http://10.1.1.10/icon.htm" SCROLLING="no"

<FRAME

SRC="

http://10.1.1.10/name.htm"

SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE>

</FRAMESET>

</FRAMESET>

5 <FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%">

<FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE>

</FRAMESET>

<FRAMESET ROWS="73%, 27%" >

<FRAME SRC=" http://10.1.22.1/icon.htm" SCROLLING="no"

10 NORESIZE>

<FRAME SRC=" http://10.1.22.1/name.htm" SCROLLING="no"

NORESIZE>

</FRAMESET>

<FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%">

15 <FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE>

</FRAMESET>

<FRAMESET ROWS="48%,4%,48%">

<FRAMESET ROWS="73%, 27%" >

<FRAME SRC=" http://10.1.229.1/icon.htm" SCROLLING="no"

20 NORESIZE>

<FRAME SRC=" http://10.1.229.1/name.htm" SCROLLING="no"

NORESIZE>

</FRAMESET>

<FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%">

25 <FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE>

</FRAMESET>

<FRAMESET ROWS="73%, 27%" >

<FRAME SRC=" http://10.30.30.1/icon.htm" SCROLLING="no"

NORESIZE>

. 30

<FRAME SRC=" http://10.30.30.1/name.htm" SCROLLING="no"

```
NORESIZE>
    </FRAMESET>
    </FRAMESET>
    <FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%">
5 <FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE>
    </FRAMESET>
    </FRAMESET>
    <FRAMESET ROWS="100%.0%">
    <FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE>
10 </FRAMESET>
    <FRAMESET
    COLS="1.2%,23.5%,1.2%,23.5%,1.2%,23.5%,1.2%,23.5%,1.2%">
    <FRAMESET ROWS="100%.0%">
    <FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE>
15 </FRAMESET>
    <FRAMESET ROWS="73%, 27%" >
          <FRAME SRC=" http://10.41.1.1/icon.htm" SCROLLING="no"
    NORESIZE>
         <FRAME SRC=" http://10.41.1.1/name.htm" SCROLLING="no"</pre>
20 NORESIZE>
     </FRAMESET>
     <FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%">
     <FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE>
     </FRAMESET>
25 <FRAMESET ROWS="73%, 27%" >
          <FRAME SRC=" http://10.41.21.1/icon.htm" SCROLLING="no"
     NORESIZE>
          <FRAME SRC=" http://10.41.21.1/name.htm" SCROLLING="no"
     NORESIZE>
 30 </FRAMESET>
```

```
<FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%">
    <FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE>
    </FRAMESET>
    <FRAMESET ROWS="73%, 27%" >
5
         <FRAME SRC=" http://10.45.1.1/icon.htm" SCROLLING="no"
    NORESIZE>
         <FRAME SRC=" http://10.45.1.1/name.htm" SCROLLING="no"
    NORESIZE>
    </FRAMESET>
10
    <FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%">
    <FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE>
    </FRAMESET>
    <FRAMESET ROWS="73%, 27%" >
         <FRAME SRC=" http://10.100.1.1/icon.htm" SCROLLING="no"
15
    NORESIZE>
         <FRAME SRC=" http://10.100.1.1/name.htm" SCROLLING="no"
    NORESIZE>
    </FRAMESET>
    <FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%">
    <FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE>
20
    </FRAMESET>
    </FRAMESET>
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    NORESIZE>
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    SCROLLING="no" NORESIZE>
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     NORESIZE>
                                    http://10.122.122.123/name.htm"
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 30 NORESIZE>
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</FRAMESET>

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ALINK="#FF0000" VLINK="#007986">

</BODY>

15 </HTML>

附录2. Background.htm 例子

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<HEAD>

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 </HEAD><BODY BGCOLOR="#007986"></BODY>

</HTML>

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附录3- Icon.htm 例子

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</HEAD>

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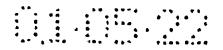
10

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</CENTER>

</BODY>

15 </HTML>



附录4- Name.htm 例子

<HTML>

<HEAD>

5 <TITLE>Device Name</TITLE> </HEAD>

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10 <CENTER>Samsung Device</CENTER> </BODY>

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说明书附图

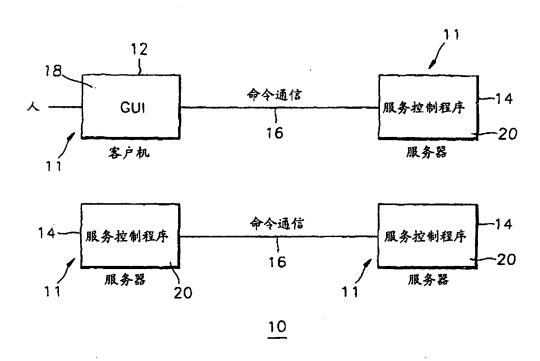


图 1

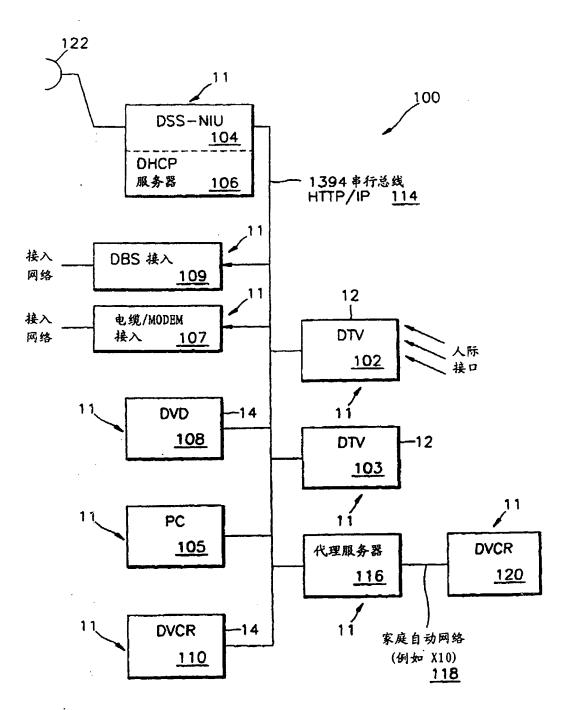
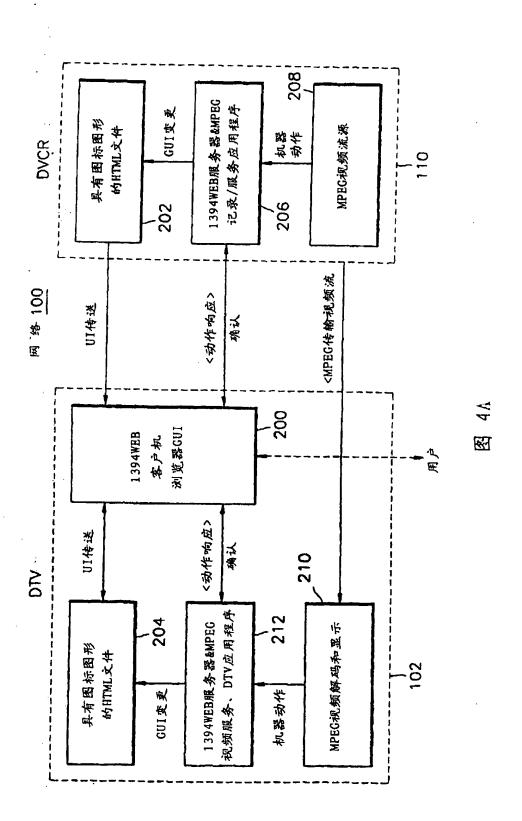


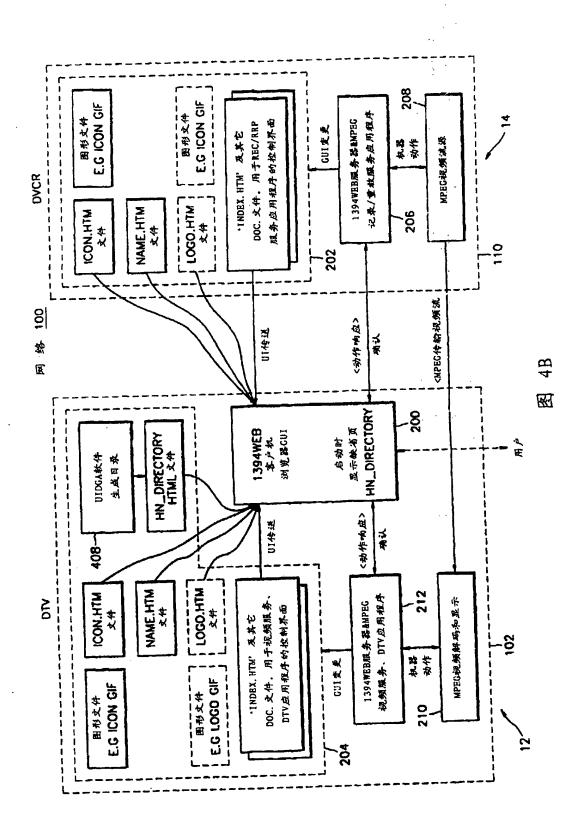
图 2

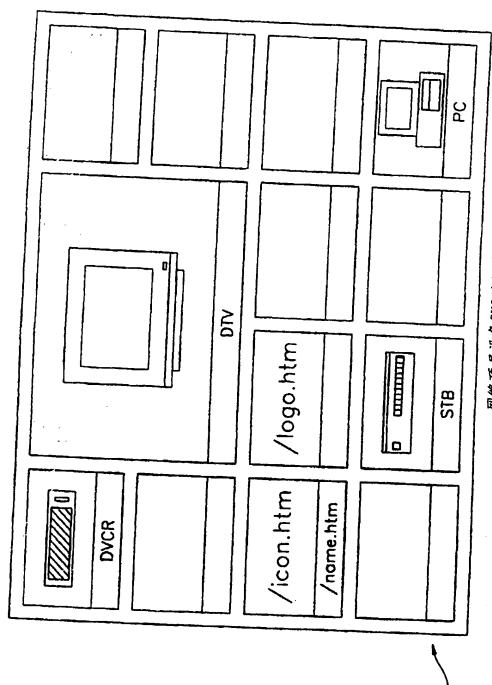
服务器 150	50	客户机 166
应用层	152	应用层 152
表示原	154	表示层 154
会话层	156	会话层 156
传输层	158	传输及 158
网络层	160	160
数据链路层	162	数据链路层 162
物理层	164	物理层 164

经





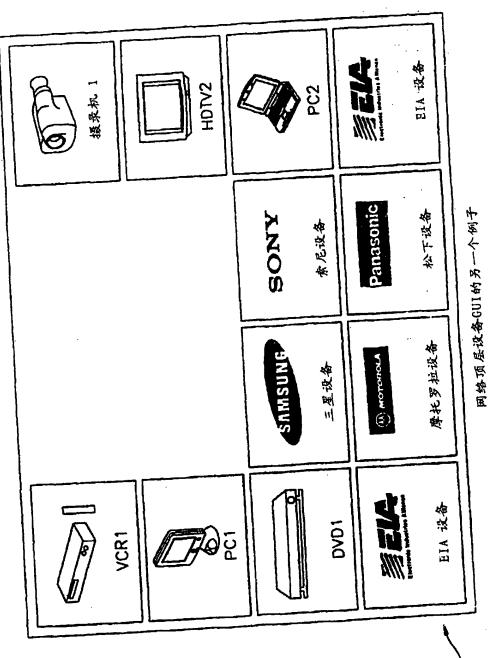




网络顶层设备CUI的例子

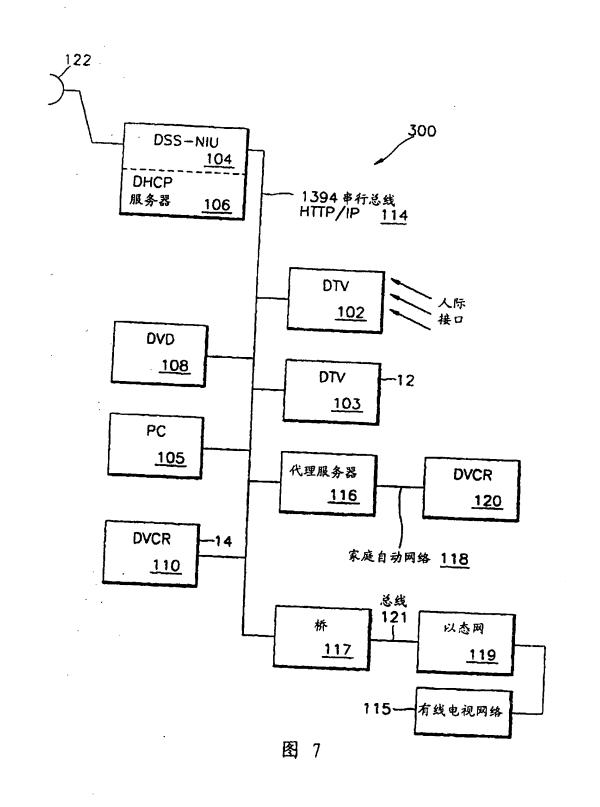
图 5

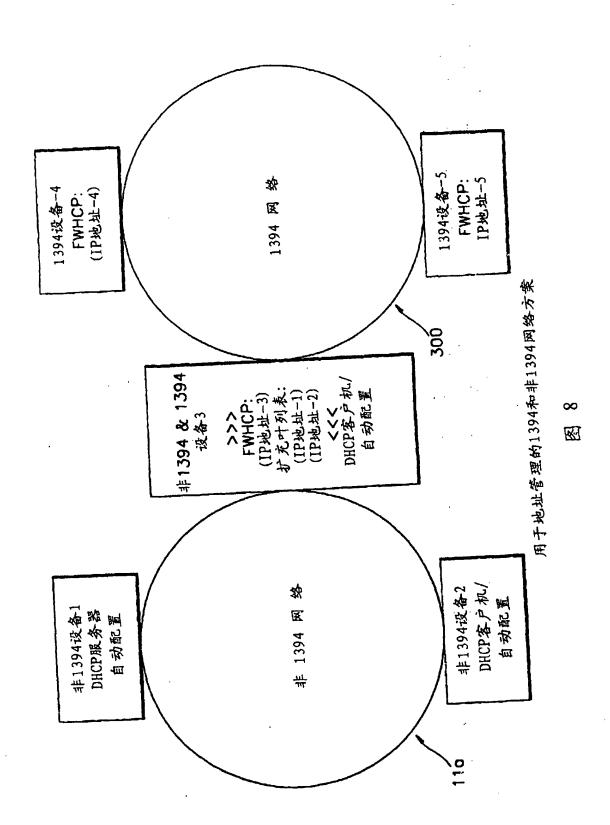


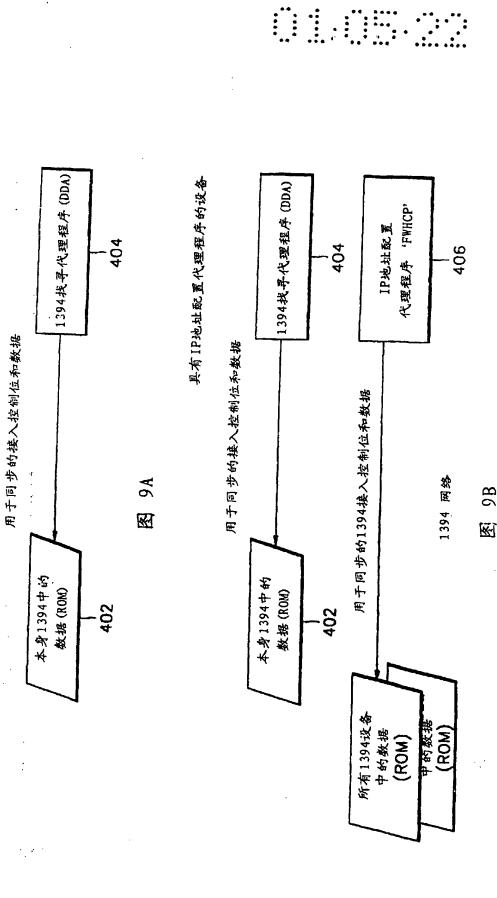


密











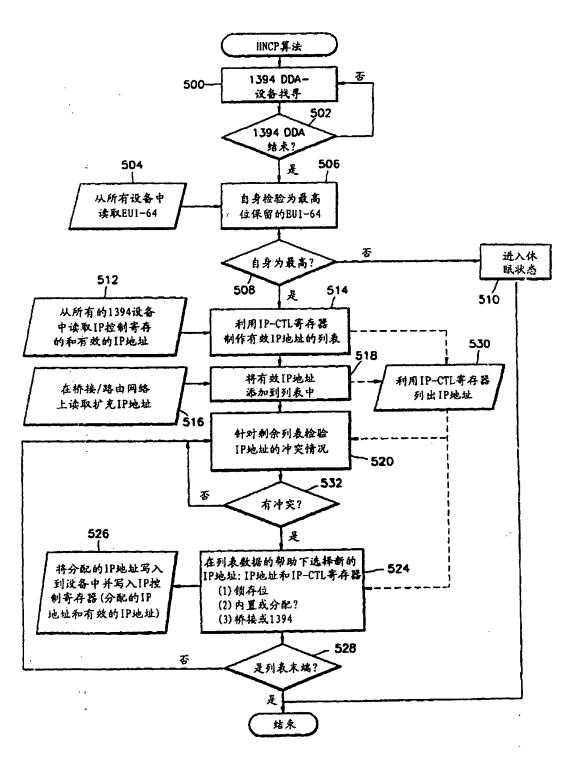


图 10



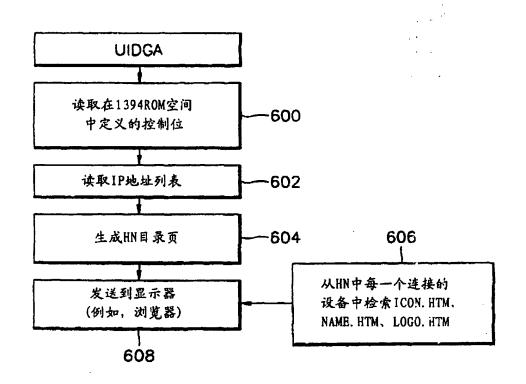


图 11

Home network device information architecture

Description of corresponding document: WO0108151

Home Network Device Information Architecture

TechnicalField

The present invention relates to the field of networks, and more particularly, to home networks having multi-media devices connected thereto.

< Notice of Inclusion of CopyrightedMaterial >

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< Cross-References to Related Applications >

Applicants claim the benefit of U. S. Provisional Application No.

60/146,101 entitled"Network Architecture, "filed on July, 27,1999, and U. S.

Provisional Application No. 60/149,515entitled"External Web ServerIncluded in Home NetworkTop-Level User Interface Description, "filed on August 17, 1999, which applications are incorporated herein by reference.

Background Art

A networkgenerally inclues a communication link and various devices with communication capability connected to the communication link. The devices include computers, peripheral devices, routers, storage devices, and appliances with processors and communication interfaces. An example of a network is a home network for a household in which various devices are interconnected. Ausual household can containseveral devices including personal computers and home devices that aretypically found in the home. As such the term "device" typically includes logical devices or other units having functionality and anability to exchange data, and can include notonly all home devices but also general purpose computers. Home devices include suchelectronic devices as security systems, theater equipment, TVS, VCRs, stereo equipment, and direct broadcast satellite services or (DBSS), also known as digital satellite services (DSS), sprinkler systems, lighting systems, micro waves, dish washer, ovens/stoves, washers/dryers, and a processing system in an automobile.

In general, home devices are used to perform tasks that enhance a homeowners life style and standard of living. For example, a dishwasher performs the task of washing dirty dishes and relieves the homeowner of having to wash the dishes by hand. A VCR can record a TV program to allow a homeowner to watch a particular program at a later time. Security systems protect the homeowners valables and can reduce the homeowners fear of unwanted entry.

Home devices, such as home theater equipment, are often controlled using a single common control unit, namely a remote control device. This single common control unitallows a homeowner to control and command several different home devices using a single interface. Thus, many manufacturers havedeveloped control units forcontrolling and commanding their home devices from a single interface.

One drawback associated with using the remote control unit to command and control home devices is that it provides static and command logic forcontrolling and commanding each home device. Therefore, a particular remote control unit canonly control and command those home devices for which itincludes the necessary control and command logic. For example, if a remote control unit comprises logic forcontrolling a television (TV), a video cassette recorder (VCR), and a digital video device (DVD), but not a compact disk (CD) unit, the remote control unit can not be used to command and control the

CD unit. In addition, as new home devices are developed, the remote control unit will not be able to control and command the new home devices that require control and command logic that was not known at the time the remote control unit was developed.

Further, typically a remote control unit can only be used to command and control those home devices that are within the signal range of the remote control unit. Therefore, a user cannot use the remote control unit from a single location in the house to control and command home devices that are interconnected, but located in separate areas of the home. For example, a VCR that is located upstairs in a bedroom may be connected to a TV that is downstairs in the family room. If a user wishes to play a tape contained in the VCR located upstairs in the bedroom, on the TV located downstairs in the family room, the user cannot control and command both the TV and the VCR from a single location.

Another drawback associated with using remote control units is that known remote control units cannot control a plurality of diverse devices, and more particularly, cannot control a plurality of devices having different capabilities to communicate with each other in order to accomplish tasks or provide a service. Further, conventional network

However, in such networks a change todevice information (e. g., ICON) in a device requires a change to, and rebuilding of, the toplevel page. Further, if the device displaying the central user interface becomes unavailable, user control of the network is curtailed. Another problem with the central/singular page is that every Ul device must display the same page, and a scope is not provided for each manufacturer to generate its ownUl look and feel nor alter the technology used in the Ul device. The content of an icon/information representing a device cannot be changed, and a Ul device cannot display a more prominent look to a device icon such as the icon for theUl device itself.

Nor can a Ul builder tool obtain e-business icons from anexternal Web Portal.

Such a model cannot be standardized for industry use because a central/singleUI device controls theUI.

There is, therefore, a need for a method and a system which provides dynamic control and command devices in a home network. There is also a need for such a method and system to provide theability to control a plurality of diverse devices having different capabilities via different dynamic user interfaces.

Disclosure of the Invention

The present invention satisfies these needs. In one embodiment, the present invention provides a method and system for providing a user interface forcontrolling devices that are currently connected to a network, such that atleast one of said devices performs steps including: (a) obtaining information from one or more of the devices currently connected to the network, said information including device information; and (b) generating a user interface description based atleast on the obtained information, the user interface description including a reference associated with the device information of each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that the reference includes atleast one link to information contained in said devices currently connected to the network. As such, a user interface can be displayed using the references in the user interface description, for controlling said devices currently connected to the network.

In one version, atop-level home network (HN) directory page can be describedentirely in the abstract to allow devices freedom to control device icon information called by reference (not direct). This allows the devices to change icon content and content technology without incurring the overhead of command and control back to a central device to make the change. Further, there is no need for a central device, because the top-level HN directory always uses the same abstract references and any device can use the references to provide user access to all devices.

Brief Description of the Drawings

These and other features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with regard to the following description, appended claims and accompanying drawings where:

FIG. I shows an example block diagram of the architecture of an embodiment of a network according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 shows an example block diagram of the architecture of another embodiment of a network according to the present invention;

FIG. 3 illustrates an example of a layered interface model that can be used for communicating between home devices in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 4A shows an example architecture diagram of a DVCR server device replaying video to a DTV client device capable of displaying a user interface, in a network according to the present invention;

FIG. 4B shows another example architecture diagram of a server device communicating with a client device capable of displaying a user interface, in a network according to the present invention;

FIGS. 5-6 illustrate exampletop-level GUIs representing the functions of networked devices to a user;

FIG. 7 shows an example block diagram architecture of a home network constructed in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 8 shows an example process according to the present invention for communication between a 1394 network and a non-1394 network for IP address configuration;

FIGS. 9A-C show example functional block diagrams of connections to data and control bits of an embodiment of a discovery system architecture in a network according to another aspect of the present invention;

FIG. 10 shows an example flow diagram for discovery and configuration agents in the home network in connection with the functional block diagrams in

FIGS. 9A-C;

FIG. 11 shows an example flow diagram for user interface agent in the home network in connection with the functional block diagrams in FIGS. 9A-C; and

Appendices 1-4, illustrative examples for: (1) Top-Level Page description 250 (Appendix 1); (2) Background. htm (Appendix 2); (3) Icon. htm (Appendix 4); and (4) Name. htm (Appendix 4).

To facilitate understanding, identical referencenumerals have been used, where possible, to designate identical elements that are common throughout the figures.

Best mode for carrying out the Invention < Network Overview >

Referring to FIG. 1, in an embodiment of the present invention, a network 10 comprises multiple devices 11 including at least one client device 12 and at least one server device 14 interconnected via a communication link 16. The communication link 16 can include a 1394 serial bus providing a physical layer (medium) for sending and

(FCP) as defined by IEC 61883, or any other appropriate protocol. Thus, a network may generally include two or more devices interconnected by a physical layer exchange or transfer of data in accordance with a predefined communication protocol.

Each client device 12 may communicate with one or more server devices 14 in the network 10. Further, each server device 14 may communicate with one or more other server devices 14, and one or more client devices 12, in thenetwork 10. Each client device 12 can include a user communication interface including input devices such as a mouse and keyboard for receiving user input, and a display for providing a control user interface for a user to interact with the networked devices. The user interface can include a graphical user interface (GUI) 18 for providing information to the user. Each server device 14includes hardware as a resource in the network for providing services to the user, and can further include a server or service control program 20 forcontrolling the server hardware.

Each server device 14 provides a service for the user, except control user interface, and each client device 12 provides a service including control user interface for user interaction with the network 10. As such, only client devices 12 interact directly with users, and server devices 14 interactorly with client devices 12 and other server devices 14. Example services can include MPEG sourcing/sinking and display services.

In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a browser based network (e. g., a home network) usesInternet technology to control and command devices including client devices and server devices that are connected to a network. Each device inclues device information such as interface data (e. g. HTML,XML, JAVA, JAVASCRIPT, GIF, JPEG, graphics files, or any other formatuseful for the intended purpose) that provides an interface for commanding and controlling of the device over the network. In certain embodiments, each device inclues device information such as one or more

Hypertext markup Language (HTML) pages that provide for the commanding and controlling of that device. Using the browser technology, the network employs Internet standards to render the HTML pages in order to provide users with a plurality of graphical user interface (GUis) for commanding and controlling each device. In one example, the network is configured as an Intrant.

In one embodiment, a client device comprises a device providing control interface service to a human operator, including a graphical display hardware for down communication and a mouse or other point-and-click device for up (or return) communication. A server device comprises a modulesupplying a service, which can be any service other than a control interface provided by a client device. As such, the server/client devicerelationship is acontrol relationship, wherein the server device provides a service but a client device can use the data, as a DTV displays video data, but need notmanipulate or alter the data.

It is thus consistent with this definition to observe that, frequently, a server may be a source of information and a client (a browser, for example) may be a consumer of information.

Examples of specific functions which can be implemented by server devices include: return of information (data); performance of a function (e.g., mechanical function) and return of status; return of a data stream and status; reception of a data stream and return of status; or saving of a state for subsequent action. Examples of server devices include MPEG source, sink and display servers. While a server device typically includes a custom, built-in, control program to implement control of its own hardware, a client functions to interface with the server device. However, server device as used herein does not imply that a web server and a protocol stack must be used.

FIG. 2 shows a block diagram of an embodiment of a network 100 according to an aspect of the present invention. A 1394 serial bus 114, described above, electronically connects multiple devices 11 including server devices 14 (e. g., DVD 108, DVCR 110), client devices 12 (e.g., DTV102, 103), Bridge 116, DVCR120, PC 105, cable/modem access 107, and DBS access 109, on the network 100. FIG. 3 illustrates an example of a layered interface model that can be used for communicating between the devices 11 in accordance with the present invention. In this example, a device (server) 150 communicates with a client device 166 using one or more of the network communication layers152-164. In one example, an application in the device 150 communicates with an application in the device 166 via the network layer 160. The details oflower layers 162 and 164 are not seen by the applications, whereby use of e. g. either 1394 or Ethernet does not make a difference to said applications in the devices 150,166. Further not all the upper layers of the 7layer model are usedall the time (e. g., in the Web model (TCP/IP model) session layer 156 and presentation layer 154 are not used). As such, in one version, by employing the Internet Protocol standard for the network layer 160, the devices can communicate with each other without having to know specific details about the other communication layers (i. e. application 152, presentation 154, session 156, transport 158, data link 162 and physical 164). Thus, by employing the InternetProtocol standard for the network layer 160, the network can use a combination of different communication layers in communicating between different devices.

A single physical package can include several devices which are logically networked via a network layer for example as shown in FIG. 3 not necessarily via a physical network (e. g., such devices can include a VCR and a TV in a single housing). Where a logical device accesses a GUI to enable a user to control a device, the device and the logical device can be included in the same physical package. In such an embodiment, the physical device fetches a GUI from itself. However, in other embodiments the network interconnects separate physical devices, wherein for example, a

network 100 (i. e. audio/video streams and command/control).

Further, the 1394 serial bus provides automatic configuration reset such that when a device is pluggedin/removed all the 1394 interfaces reset, the 1394 bus reconfigures and every device knows the presence of every other device (including anewly added one or without the one just removed). Also, the 1394 interface supports a data space for configuration information that is addressable from any deviceallowing other devices to write/read information and make modifications e. g. to permit the operation of the network layer protocol. However, it is possible to achieve these results with different software and standards. As such, the network 100 is not restricted to using a 1394 serial bus, and, in alternative embodiments of the present invention, other bus types, such a Ethernet, ATM, wireless, etc., can be used as thephysical layer if they meet the particular throughput requirements of an individual network (e. g., a home network). Further, a modified version of e. g.wireless-Ethernet can include theessential features of 1394.

As depicted in FIG. 2, the network 100 includes several devices connected to the 1394 serial bus 114. In this example, the devices include a

DBSS 104 for receiving transmission signal from a satellite 122 for subsequent display. Associated with the DBSS is a network interface unit("NIU") which, among other things, provides an interface between the DBSS satellite transmission and the 1394 serial bus 114.

A digital video device (DVD) 108 is also connected to the exemplary network 100. The DVD 108 can be used to display digitally encoded videos on a television. Also connected to the exemplary network 100 is a digital video cassette recorder (DVCR) 110, i. e., a digital TV102. In this example, the DTV 102 provides a human interface for the network 100 by employing browser technology to allow users to control and command for devices over the home network 100. A second DTV 103 provides another human interface for the network 100 by employing browser technology to allow users to control and command for devices over the home network 100. The DTVs 102 and 103 can provide human interfaces for the network 100 as each DTV comprises a screen for displaying HTML pages. However other devices having display capability can be used to provide human interfaces. Thus, in certain embodiments of the invention, a device such as the personal computer 105 (PC) is used to provide a human interface for a respective home network, as a PC 105typically embodies a screen display unit.

The 1394 serial bus 114 is depicted as using the HTTP/IP interface protocol, and preferablyHTTP/TCP/IP, wherein IP provides packet format (a one-way write only model), TCP provides an error free version ofIP (e. g., ensures packets arrive and in correct order), and HTTP provides 2-way connection (packet to server will expect aresponse-a'read'model). Certain devices can require other protocol interface types (e. g., UPD/IP, FTP/IP, TELNET/IP,SNMP/IP, DNS/IP, SMTP/IP). In certain embodiments of the invention, a proxy 116 can be used to interface two networks using dissimilar interface protocols on their respective mediums which, when connected, comprise the network 100. The proxy 116 (e. g. Web proxy) can include Home Automation type protocols such as the HTML/HTTP/TCP/IP proxy forX10, Lonworks, CEBus (on their respective physical technologies), or non-IP protocols on 1394 (e. g.,AVC/FCP/1394).

In certain embodiments, the two network mediums are of the same type.

For example, as depicted in FIG. 2, the 1394 serial bus 114 using the HTTP/IP interface protocol is connected by a proxy 116 to the Home Automationneutral 118 (e. g., X10). By using the proxy 116 asHTMUHTTP/CTP/IP/1394 proxy for

VCR-Commands/AVC/FCP/1394, to interface between HTMUHTTP/TCP/IP and

X10 protocols, DVCR 120 is also accessible on the network 100. In certain other embodiments, a network can comprise two network mediums of dissimilar types, e. g., a 1394 Serial bus and Ethernet. Therefore, in certain embodiments of the invention, a proxy is used to interface two dissimilar medium types to from a single network. A discovery process, described further below, can be used for the discovery of devices that are powered on and connected to the network 100. Also, the same 1394 bus can be used without need for a bridge box.

As depicted in FIG. 2, devices 11 including DTV 102, DTV 103, PC 105, DVCR 110, DVD 108, DSS-NIU 104 and DVCR 120 represent devices that are currently connected to the network 100 comprising a 1394 network. A clientserver relationship exists among the attached devices, with the DTV 102, DTV 103 and PC 105 typically behaving as clients and devices DVCR 110, DVD 108, DSS-NIU 104 and DVCR 120 behaving as servers.

Atypical 1394 network comprises interconnected devices such as a collection of appliances including server devices offering one or more services to be controlled (e. g., DVCR 100 as an MPEG video recording and replay service), and client device offering a user interface (UI) service (e. g., DTV 102) forcontrolling the server devices. Some appliances (e. g., DTV 103) can have both services (e. g., MPEG decode and display capability) to be controlled, and aUI controller capability. According to an aspect of the present invention, methods and systems including protocols, document description, image compression and scripting language standards from technologies utilized in the World Wide Web standard (Web model) are used to implement t a 1394WEB user-to-device control model in the network 100. The Web model is a client/server model. The controlled server device (service) comprises a Web server and the controller client device (i. e., a device capable of displaying aUI) comprises a Web client including a GUI presentation engine, described further below, such as a Web browser (e. g., Explorer, Netscape, etc.) < User Device

contained in the DVCR 110 or based on the device information 204 contained in the DTV 102. For example, the user can utilize a browser 200 in the DTV 102 to display an HTML control page GUI202 contained in the DVCR 110 or an

HTML control page GUI 204 contained in the DTV 102. Each page 202,204 inclues graphical user interface description information in HTML, wherein the browser 200 reads that information to generate agraphical user interface.

Each page 202,204 represents the Control Interface of the Applications 206, 212, respectively. Each page 202,204 can include a hierarchy of pages to represent a corresponding application control interface.

Each GUI 202 and/or 204 includes active control icons and/or buttons for the user to select and control devices currently connected to the network 100.

If, for example, the user selects a PLAY button in the GUI 202 of the DVCR 110 displayed by the browser 200 on the DTV 102, ahyperlink message is returned to the DVCR 110 Web server and directed to an application software 206 (e. g.,

MPEGRecord/Replay Service Application Software) in the DVCR 110 for operating a DVCR hardware 208. In one example, an MPEG video stream source 208 in the DVCR 110 transmits an MPEG video stream to an MPEG vide decode and display system 210 in the DTV 102 for display under the control of application control software 212 in the DTV 102. The application software 206 in the DVCR 110 also sends information back to the application software 212 in the DTV 102, including e. g. an acknowledgement if the operation is successful, or an altered or different control GUI 202 to the DTV 102 indicating status to the user. There can be further communication between the application softwares 206 and 212 e. g. for setting up a 1394 isochronous video stream connection for video stream service.

FIG. 4B shows another example architecture diagram of a server device communicating with a client device capable of displaying a user interface, in a network 100. The server device such as DVCR 110 replays MPEG video to the client device such as the DTV 102 in the network 100, wherein the DTV 102 can display a user interface.

< CommunicationProtocol >

In an embodiment of the invention, the communication protocol between devices data representation, allowing devices to be built independently of the data being transferred over the network 100 to which the devices are connected.

< GUI Description Language >

The description document language for defining various GUIs 202,204 can be e. g. HTML, version 4.0, the publishing language of the World Wide Web.

HTML supports text, multimedia, andhyperlink features, scripting langages and style sheets. HTML 4.0 is an SGML application conforming to International Standard ISO 8879--Standard Generalized Markup Language.

< Image Compression Formats >

To display images, three still image graphics compression formats specified by the HTML specification are utilized in the 1394WEB network 100 for ICON, LOGO and other graphics. The still image graphics compression formats are: GraphicsInterchange Format (GIF89s), Progressive Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG) and Portable Network Graphics (PNG).

Table 1 shows the differences in capabilities between the three different still image graphics compression formats.

< Table 1:Still Image Compression Formats > EMI17.1

- <tb> <SEP> PNG <SEP> Progressive <SEP> GIF89a
- <tb> <SEP> JPEG
- <tb>Color <SEP> Depth <SEP> 48 <SEP> bit <SEP> 24 <SEP> bit <SEP> 8 <SEP> bit
- <tb> Colors <SEP> Supported <SEP> 16.7 <SEP> million <SEP> 256
- <tb> Formats <SEP> Supported <SEP> Raster, <SEP> Vector <SEP> Raster <SEP> Raster
- <tb> Compression <SEP> LZ77 <SEP> derivative <SEP> JPEG <SEP> LZW
- <tb> Scheme
- <tb> Transparency <SEP> Per <SEP> Pixel <SEP> for <SEP> Grayscale <SEP> No <SEP> Single <SEP> Color,
- <tb> <SEP> & <SEP> RGB, <SEP> 2 <SEP> levels <SEP> (Binary)
- <tb> <SEP> Per <SEP> Color <SEP> for <SEP> Indexe,
- <tb> <SEP> 256 <SEP> levels
- <tb> Progressive <SEP> Display <SEP> Yes <SEP> Yes <SEP> Yes
- <tb> Scalable <SEP> No <SEP> No <SEP> No
- <tb> Animation <SEP> No <SEP> Yes

- <tb> Gamma <SEP> Correction <SEP> Yes
- <tb> (light <SEP> intensity)
- <tb> Chromaticity <SEP> Both
- <tb> Correction
- <tb> Searchable <SEP> Meta-Yes
- <tb> Data
- <tb> Extensibility <SEP> Yes, <SEP> chunk <SEP> encoded
- <tb> < Scripting Language >

Further, the Web scripting language, ECMA-Script-262, is utilized to provide a means forvisually enhancing the GUI Web pages 202 as part of a

Web-based client-server architecture. The scripting language is a programming language for manipulating, customizing, and automating thefacilities/services of the devices. The user interface 200 provides basic user interaction functions, and the scripting language is utilized to expose that functionality to program control. The existing system provides the host environment of objects and facilities completing the capabilities of the scripting language. The web browser 200 provides the ECMA-Script host environment for client-side computation including, for example, objects that represent windows, menus, pop-ups, dialog boxes, text areas, anchors, frames, history, cookies, andinput/output.

The web browser 200 provides the host environment for the EXMA

Script-262, and the host environment supports attaching scripting code to events such as change of focus, page and image loading, unloading, error and abort, section, form submission, and mouse actions. Scripting code is included within the HTML pages 202 and 204 and the displayed page is the browser 200 includes a combination of user interfaceelements, and fixed and computed text and images. The scripting code responds to user interaction without need for a main program.

< Client Device Specification >

In one example, the specification for a 1394WEB client browser 200 inclues HTTP1.1 specification, wherein section'8.1.2.1 Negotiation'of the

HTTP1.1 specification regarding connection persistence is modified such that an HTTP1.1 client device such as e. g. the DTV102 expects a connection to server device such as e. g. the DVCR 110 via the 1394 to remain open, because the persistent connection in 1394WEB user control allows full status reporting from the server device (DVCR 110) while the GUI 202and/or 204 remains visible

in the browser 200 of the client device (DTV 102). The HTTP connection remains open (HTTPspec RFC 2068) wherein a client that supports persistent connections may "pipeline" its requests (i. e., send multiple requests without waiting for each response). A server must send its responses to those requests in the same order that the requests were received. This allows the web browser 200 to pipeline requests to the DVCR 110 which the DVCR 110 can then satisfy later with e. g. status responses such as Now Playing, Now

Recording, Rewind Finished, TapeBroken, Etc. Other example implementations include e. g. the control page from the DVCR 110 can contain a request to loop on the DVCR 100 request of GUI description 202.

The GUI presentation engine 200 is utilized in the client device such as the DTV 102 to interpret GUI descriptions 202,204 written in the HTML4.0 document description language and the associated specifications(below), and to create the graphical form for display to the user. The GUI presentation engine 200 includes the following e. g. attributes: (1) window (GUI) minimum default size of e. g., H0x640 pixels (480x640 where 480 vertical, 640 horizontal).

This default size is to insure the intended appearance in the GUIs 202,204 is transferred to the user in the browser 200. The transferred GUIs 202,204 are displayed in a window 480x640 pixels or magnified larger with the same aspect ratio uniess otherwise directed by the user; (2) still image compression formats: e. g., GIF89a, JPEG, and PNG; (3) style sheet formats and fonts: e. g., CSS1 and CSS2; (4) fonts such as the following e. g.built-in fonts are required for the client device to free simple server appliances from having to support such fonts.

Minimum one font from each generic Latin family can be selected: e. g., Times

New Roman, from'serif family; Helvetica, from'sans-serif family; Zapf

Chancery, from'cursive'family; Western from'fantasy'family; and Courier from 'monospace'family. Other fonts can also be utilized; and (5) scripting language e. g., ECMA-262. Examples of the GUI presentation engine 200 include Web

browsers such as Explorer and Netscapew configured/customized as desired.

< Server Device Specification >

One or more of the server devices (e. g. a 1394WEB network, controlled appliance Web server such as the DVCR 110), include the following six enumerated components:

(1) HTTP1.1 web server protocol, with section'8.1.2.1

Negotiation of the HTTP1.1 specification regarding connection modified such that an HTTP1.1 server device (e. g. DVCR 110) assumes that a HTTP1.1 client device (e. g., DTV 102) intends to maintain a persistent connection with the server device. The persistent connection in the 1394WEB network 100allows full status reporting from e. g. the server device DVCR 110 to the client device

DTV 102 white the GUI 202 of the DVCR 110 remains visible in the browser 200 of the DTV 102. Further, a

HTTP"conditionalget"requests to determine whether or not fresh copies of web pages or graphicsshould be retrieved from the server.

(2) Device home page GUI descriptions 202,204 written e. g. in HTML4.0, include file e. g. icon. htm, name. htm, logo. htm, index. htm, gif files, etc..

The file index. htm is referenced by HTML linksincluded in device icon. htm and name. htm HTML files, wherein index. htm can beoptionally named e. g.

"INDEX. HTML" or "INDEX. HTM". File named INDEX. HTM is not required to be a standard name because the ICON. HTM and NAME. HTM are made with hyperlinks to the INDEX. HTM', therefore the name is arbitrary.

ICON. HTM and LOGO. HTM reference the actual graphics files in the same device e. g. LOGO.GIF and ICON. GIF. The descriptions 202,204 are accessible by the devices (e. g., HTTP devices) in the network 100. Toguarantee a desired appearance, the control GUI design can be for a default GUI size of e. g.

480x640 pixels. For example, a transferred GUI 202 can be displayed in a window of 480x640 pixels in the browser 200 or magnified larger with the same aspect ratio unless otherwise directed by the user.

(3) Atleast two device CON files are provided to represent the device in a top-level network page 220 (FIGS. 5-6) in the browser 200 showing information about the devices connected to the network. AnICON can comprise a graphic file type (e. g. GIF, JPG or PNG) and named ICON. HTM.

In one example, ICON. HTM (DVCR) references the INDEX. HTM file in the HTML page 202 and ICON. HTM(DTV) references the INDEX. HTM file in the

HTML page 204. The top-level link for the control pages (e. g., INDEX. HTM) of the device can be ICON. HTM. The browser 200 places the icons and links therein) of a plurality of devices in the network 100 in the top-level HN directory page 220 for service discovery by the user. Then user clicks the ICON displayed in the page 220 and the device page (e. g. INDEX. HTM in page 202) is fetched.

The default displayed HN directory is the top-level discovery page.

A number of additional and different graphic icons can also be utilized, for example, to represent device status, user configured preference or

manufacturers formats which may be substituted for the icon graphic. In a discovery process described further below, CONs from the devices connected to the network 100 are collectetogether and displayed in the top level network devices page 220 for selection by a user. Anexample device ICON

specification comprises: File name ICON. HTM accessible by the HTTP server (files names are in a directory, file space, accessible by the web server so that they can be retrieved and forwarded over the network to the browser); Graphic file type such as GIF, JPG or PNG; and Icon graphic with a maximum size of 70 (V)x130 (H) pixels.

(4) Atleast two device LOGO files are provided to represent the device in the top-level network devices page. LOGO can comprise a graphic file type (e. g., GIF, JPG or PNG) and named LOGO. HTM. In one example,

LOGO. HTM (DVCR) references the INDEX. HTM in the HTML page 202 and

LOGO. HTM(DTV) references the INDEX. HTM in the HTML page 204. In one version, the top-level link for the control pages (e. g., INDEX. HTM) of the device can be LOGO. HTM. All device logos are placed in the top-level HN directory page 220 for service discovery by the user. Then user clicks the LOGO displayed in the page 220 and the device page (e. g. 202) is fetched. A number of additional and different graphics for manufacturer services can be substituted for the logo graphic format. According to the discovery process, LOGOs from devices connected to the network 100 are collecte together and displayed in the top level network devices page 220 for selection by a user. An example device LOGO specification comprises: File name LOGO. HTM accessible by the

HTTP server; Graphic file type such as GIF, JPG orPNG; and logo graphic maximum size of about 70 (V) x130 (H) pixels.

(5) Atleast one device NAME is provided to represent the device in the top-level network devices page. NAME comprises TEXT in an HTML file

NAME. HTM. This text can also reference control pages (e. g., 202). This is a top-level link in the discovery page to the control interface of the device. The text provides a way to distinguish identical devices whereby for e. g. two identical

DTV's can be distinguished by adding NAME text'Bedroom TV'and'Family

Room TV'. The text can comprise a few words to clearly represent the device type e. g. DVCR or DTV. According to the discovery process, NAMEs from

devices connected to the network are accessed along with correspondingICONs/LOGOs and displayed in the toplevel network devices page 220 under the ICON/LOGO. An example NAME specification comprises: File name NAME. HTM accessible by the HTTP server; Text unspecified, such as, with

Font size 10, two lines of text can be displayed under the corresponding

ICON/LOGO. Therefore, for example the space size for the NAME. HTM text can be 20 vertical by 130 horizontal to match the ICON/LOGO (70 vertical x 130 horizontal). As shown by example in FIGS. 5-6, the format of the top-

(6) A device information summary home page description document written in HTML4.0 can be provided, named e.g."info. html" or "info. htm", and made accessible by the HTTP server for the discovery process.

A link can be provided to INFO. HTML information via control pages e. g. 202, 204. The device information summary homepage provides the user a device summary instead of the detailed control interface as shown in the device

homepage. Table 2 shows device attributes text that are included and others that can be included. This table can be extended toincluded other attributes.

< Table 2-Device information summary > EMI24.1

```
<tb>NameValue
<tb> Device <SEP> NameDevice <SEP> name <SEP> (user <SEP> configurable)
<tb> Device <SEP> Location <SEP> Device <SEP> location <SEP> in <SEP> home <SEP> (user <SEP>
configurable)
<tb> Device <SEP> Icon <SEP> Current <SEP> Device <SEP> ICON <SEP> name
<tb> Device <SEP> Type <SEP> Device <SEP> type <SEP> or <SEP> category <SEP> (VCR, <SEP> DSS,
<SEP> TV, <SEP> etc.)
<tb> Device <SEP> Model <SEP> Device <SEP> model
<tb> Manufacturer <SEP> Name <SEP> Name <SEP> of <SEP> device <SEP> manufacturer
<tb> Manufacturer <SEP> Logo <SEP> Manufacturer <SEP> Logo <SEP> image <SEP> name
<tb> Manufacturer <SEP> URL <SEP> Device <SEP> manufacturer's <SEP> URL
```

- <tb> Stream <SEP> Source <SEP> Name <SEP> Service: <SEP> Default <SEP> source <SEP> device <SEP>
- name <SEP> for <SEP> this <SEP> Device's
- <tb> Default <SEP> destination <SEP> service
- <tb> Stream <SEP> Destination <SEP> Service: <SEP> Default <SEP> destination <SEP> device <SEP> name
- <SEP> for <SEP> this <SEP> Device's
- <tb> Name <SEP> Default <SEP> source <SEP> service
- <tb> Stream <SEP> Source <SEP> Type <SEP> of <SEP> service <SEP> device <SEP> can <SEP> deliver <SEP> (attributes <SEP> and <SEP> capability
- <tb> Attributes
- <tb> Stream <SEP> Destination <SEP> Type <SEP> of <SEP> service <SEP> device <SEP> can <SEP> receive <SEP> (attributes <SEP> and <SEP> capabilit
- <tb> Attributes
- <tb>

Table 2 includes device summary information such as Manufacturer

Name, Manufacturer Logo image name, and can further include a Manufacturer

URL for help if there is an available Internet connection to the manufacturers

Web site. Table 2 can further include a user configurable Device Name and

Device Location in the home. There can beseveral variations of the Device

Icon representing different states of the device. The DeviceIcon attribute fieldincludes the name of the current icon. Therefore, the device summary information page can provide immediate device state information to the user by displaying the icon representative of current state.

Each device can include one or more services, e. g. video Stream Source or video Stream Destination. Each source capability has acomplementing

Default Destination capability and each destination capability has a complementing Default Source capability. This Stream Default Name entry can be used e. g. to automatically default the nearest DTV to be the destination when a DVCR is being controlled as source to eliminate having to select the DTV each time. A background crossreferencing of the Stream Default Name to 1394 address is provided. The video stream services are provided by the 1394 interface itself (not by Web model). As such there is a linkage of the default source or sink to the 1394 address mechanism. The user can access a device and select a name for default, which is then saved on the device. The device's software agent must find the 1394 address and parameters for the 1394 s/w to enable the default stream when required.

Using the Source and Destination service attributes, new server/services can beimplemented while maintaining compatibility with existing host or device (nodes) and services. For example, if a new server device providing a new service isdeveloped that is compatible with an existing server device, both the new and existing servers can be added to the attribute list of the new nodewhile maintaining compatibility with existing nodes using the existing server in the network 100. The user canselect a compatible device for purchase. These provide a user with "ABOUT" information to check capabilities of existing equipment e. g. prior to purchasing new equipment where compatibility is desired.

< Network Operation >

A discovery process for every device supporting the 1394WEB standard (e. g. devices capable of displaying a user

browser 200 as shown by example inFIGS. 5-6. The dynamically created top-level HN directory page 220 is made the default page for the browser (first page displayed when the browser is launched).

With reference to FIG. 4B, example operation steps include: (1) the browser 200 in device 102 is launched, (2) the browser 200 fetches and presents

HN-Directory HTM(Top-Level UI) from the page 204, (3) the browser 200 fetches the HTM files icon. htm and names. htm from pages 202,204 and presents in the Top-Level UI, (4) the browser 200 fetches any graphics files (e. g., GIF) from pages 202,204, and presents in Top-Level UI, (5) the browser 200 is then able to present the full HN Directory page 220 (page 220 is made with hyperlinksto'INDEX. HTM' files for different devices connected to the network 100), and (6) when a user clicks e. g. DVCR icon in GUI 220 to control the DVCR 110, a corresponding hyperlink in the top-level page 220 to 'INDEX. HTM' of the DVCR 110 is used to retrieve the 'INDEX. HTM' (top control page of DVCR) from page 202 in the DVCR 110, and present the DVCR control page to the user (e. g., if the frame that was clicked (e. g. the icon. htm frame) is not large enough, a graphic is presented in another copy of the browser with full frame size). The user can then command and control the DVCR 110 using the control interface provided by 'INDEX. HTM' of the DVCR device 110 presented by the browser 200 in theDTV 102

The name 'INDEX. HTM' is arbitrary because the ICON. HTM and

NAME. HTM are made withhyperlinks to the TNDEX. HTM'. However, ICON. HTM and LOGO. HTM reference theactual graphics files (e. g. LOGO. GIF and ICON. GIF) in the same devices. In one embodiment, LOGO. HTM can be optional if a logo for a device isoptional. The HN Directory HTML file can have a standard name so that it can be accessed from another device.

FIGS. 5-6 show that the host device, such as a client device (e. g., DTV 102,HDTV1) or server device (e. g., DVCR 110) that generates and presents thetop-level GUI page 220 can assume priority and use a larger size icon for the host device's icon, name, logo, etc. In one version, only devices with servers (services on offer) are displayed in the GUI 220 (a"Client device"comprises device with Client capability, where if it is only client then it is not displayed in the top-level GUI as there is no service to offer). The discovery process reads information from the 1394 address space data storage (configuration ROM structure), as defined in clause 8 of ISO/IEC 13213. Although called ROM'it is assumed that the address space is write-able toallow user configuration and modification of user relevant stored values. The contents of the configuration ROM and the discovery process are described further below.

Device naming, addressing and discovery processes for home or local network control of consumer devices usingInternet, Web and 1394 technology, can be different from the requirements and practice in the general Internet space. As such according to an aspect of the present invention for in home or local network control of consumer devices, special processes including device discovery, addressing and naming requirements are utilized. For example, the home network mustfully function without the presence of external communications and services, without a network administrator, and configuration must befully automatic. User control can be in many casesentirely keyboardless. Further, theIEEE1394 protocol is utilized to provide a sophisticated interface including features that can be provide simple, efficient and superior discovery and configuration functions.

< 1394 Home Network >

FIG. 7 shows a block diagram of a network 300 constructed in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention. To facilitate understanding, identical referencenumerals have been used, where possible, to designate identical elements that are common throughout all the figures herein. As depicted in FIG. 7, a 1394 serial bus 114, described above, electronically connects multiple devices including server devices 14 (e. g., DVD 108,DVCR 110) and client devices 12 (e. g., DTV 102) on the network 100, described above in reference to FIG. 2, wherein the devices communicate using the example layered interface model of FIG. 3 as described above.

The network 300 is notrestricted to using a 1394 serial bus, and, in alternative embodiments of the present invention, other bus types, such a

Ethernet, ATMwireless, etc., can be used as the physical layer if they meet the particular throughput requirements of an individual network (e. g., a home network). As depicted in FIG. 7, the network 300 includes several devices connected to the 1394 serial bus 114. In this example, the devices include a

DBSS 104 for receiving transmission signal from a satellite 122 for subsequent display. Associated with the DBSS is a network interface unit ("NIU") which, among other things, provides an interface between the DBSS satellite transmission and the 1394 serial bus 114. A digital video device (DVD) 108 is also connected to the exemplary network 300. The DVD 108 can be used to source digitally encoded videos for display on e. g. a digital television. Also connected to the exemplary network 100 is a digital video cassette recorder (DVCR) 110, a digital TV (DTV) 102. In this example, the DTV 102 provides a human interface for the network 300 by employing browser technology toallow users to control and command for devices over the home network 300. A second DTV 103 provides another human interface for the network 100 by employing browser technology toallow users to control and command for devices over the home network 100. The DTVs 102 and 103 can provide human interfaces for the network 300 as each DTV comprises a screen for displaying HTML pages. However other devices having display capability can be used to provide human interfaces. Thus, in certain embodiments of the invention, a device such as apersonal computer 105 (PC) is used to provide a human interface for a respective home network, as a PC 105typically embodies a screen display unit.

The 1394 serial bus 114 is depicted as using the HTTP/IP interface protocol, and preferably HTTP/TCP/IP, wherein

For example, as depicted in FIG. 7, the 1394 serial bus 114 using the HTTP/IP interface protocol is connected by a proxy 116 to the Home Automation network 118 (e. g., X10). By using the proxy 116 as HTMUHTTP/CTP/IP/1394 proxy for VCR-Commands/AVC/FCP/1394, to interface betweenHTMUHTTP/TCP/IP and X10 protocols, DVCR 120 is also accessible on the network 300.

In this embodiment, the network 300 can be connected to an external network 119 of dissimilar type (e.g., Ethernet) to the 1394 Serial bus, via a bus

121. A proxy 117 is used to interface the twodissimilar medium types. For communication between the addressing scheme of the external network 119, and the addressing scheme of the network 300, the bridge 117 comprises a Network Address Translation (NAT) boundary. This technique can be utilized for company LAN's and is a'divide and conquer'approach to the complex problem of satisfying various network's differing IP address requirements and prevents'running out of IPV4'addresses. Theexternal network can include e. g. CABLE-TV network 115 via Ethernet to the telephone e. g. ADSL), providing broadband connection to the Internet and WWW. The Ethernet 119 provides the bridge function to the external network. The bridge 117 or Ethernet 119 may provide the NAT address conversion function. If the

Ethernet is to provide local private (to home only) addressing (e. g. as defined by then IETF standard RFC 1918) then the NAT function is in the Ethernet 119.

Existing cable modems are set up with a global address and also Internet global address for the PC on the Ethernet (in this case the NAT is in the bridge 117).

< IP Name/Address Configuration >

The aforementioned device naming, addressing and discovery processes for the network 300 are now described. For device naming, point and click Web operation (e. g., using GUINVeb) does not require name services (DNS, Domain Name Service). The Web GUI provides an abstraction layer, and the addresses are hidden as hyper-text links invoked by user'clicks'to active

GUI areas (e. g., buttons). Any change to the devices in the local network 300 causes thetop-level discovery GUI page 200 (FIGS. 5-6) to be recreated by the browser 200 (FIGS. 4A-B) representing the status of the devices in the network 300 at that time and by default presented to the user for immediate use.

For device to device control a different look-up service is utilized for more than names (e. g., service look-up and application look-up). As such, DNS may not provide the necessary features for device to device control. However, a device (e. g., a 1394 connected PC) can access a DNS service asusual. DNS is not required for discovery or operation of devices/services within the home, but DNS (name to address) look-up service is required for external accesses e. g. from a PC. When a name e. g. "www. yahoo. com" is typed in to a Browser then look up take place for the IP address of the Yahoo computer, i. e.

216.32.74.52, because the Internet (even home Internet) operates with addresses.

For a 775WEB UI device whichincludes an agent for generating the HNtop-level directory GUI description and also inclues access to the special company web server e. g. homewideweb. com(IP address), can also have the DNS address knowledge. The DNS server computer IP address can be anyIP address under the control of the manufacturer. Effectively the DNS address is built-in to the device (or can be updated if the agent is made to be update-able and is later updated).

For device addressing, in one embodiment of the invention, utilizing fixed

IP addresses from a large address space can afford the simples and most reliable network configuration, and thereadily accessible ROM data space inthe 1394 interfaceallows utilization of fixed IP addresses therein. In another embodiment of the invention, non-fixed IP (dynamic) addresses can be utilized, wherein an abstraction layer (e.g., name or look-up mechanism) is employed to retain pre-organized communications

For IP address configuration, the following protocols can be utilized: (1)

Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) with DHCP servers and DHCP clients, (2) DHCPcLients resort to auto-configuration (DHCP server not present),

and (3)preferably, FWHCP (Fire-Wire Host ConfigurationProtocol) server

agent (s) and FWHCP clients, described further below. The auto-configuration

in (2) above is that proposed as an IETF Draft"draft-ieff-dhc-ipv4-autoconfig-04. txt".

DHCP requires support of the BOOTP/UDP protocol, and replicates what is done within the 1394 specification and provides features such aslease time and dynamic addressing. Typical DHCP requires management by an administrator and must be configured and adapted to the network requirements of mass manufactured consumerelectronics (CE) appliances where, for example, multiple identical CE appliances with DHCP serverbuilt-ins must be considered.

The 1394 technologyprovides'Plug-in'or'Power-up'reset and following'Self-ID'sequences, well suited for network configuration. Further, the 1394 specification provides abuilt-in'ROM'address spacewell suited for storage of, and access to, configuration data (e. g., IP addresses). As such, in a preferred embodiment of the invention, an IP address attached networks other than 1394. Devices are manufactured with abuilt-in IP address from the 10. x. x. x range. In the unlikely event of a collision, FWHCP sets a new IP address and saves it in the device.

DHCP/Auto-configuration can be utilized for devices on networks other than 1394. DHCP protocol provides client"requested IP address".

Preferably, the requestedIP address space is selected from the upper part of the 24 bit RFC1918 range (10.128.1.1 to 10.254.254.254). By choosing part of theallowed private address range for 1394 IP addresses and another part for other configuration methods (e. g., DHCP and DHCP/Auto-Configuration) then compatible and non-interfering addresses are generated for a heterogeneous network and allow FWHCP and DHCP to coexist.

While choice ofnon-overlapping IP addresses for 1394 and adjacent networks is desirable, the heterogeneous network using FWHCP will configure successfully even if they dooverlap. Also, DHCP clients check their assigned IP address with a test ARP message before using it. As such, different address configuration methods can coexist successfully.

< Network Scenarios and Address Management

Referring to FIG. 8, an example process according to the present invention for communication between a 1394 network (e. g., network 300) and a non-1394 network (e. g., Ethernet 119) for IP address configuration is described. In this case the 1394 network 300 utilizes FWHCP configuration and the non-1394 network 119 utilizes DHCP configuration or other method.

Generally, 1394 devices (such as DTV and DVCR in FIG. 7) do not support DHCP. The 1394 DEVICE-3, for 1394 network to non-1394 network communication, inclues an IP address in the 1394 ROM space and provides support for FWHCP for a 1394 device. The DEVICE-3 furtherincludes means for supporting the configuration mechanisms on the non-1394 network, and maintains an extension data leaf in the 1394 ROM space for IP addresses of devices on the non-1394 network. As such, configuration processes (e. g., FWHCP for top-level UI description generation) on the 1394 network 300 can include use of IP addresses on the non-1394 network by selecting IP addresses from the extension data leaf. The non-1394 network configuration operates to provide theIP addresses for the 1394 extension data leaf.

According to the discovery process (agent), 1394 specification'plug-in' reset and self-ID is utilized for configuration and can be used for IP address configuration. Preferably, fixed IP addressing is utilized for home networks, however dynamic IP addressing can also be utilized. DNS is not required within 1394WEB control because a top-level GUI description is created with hypertext-links that use IP addresses rather than names. Preferably, the IP configuration agent (FWHCP) for the 1394 network is utilized forIP configuration using 1394 ROM data and 1394 commands, however DHCP canalso be utilized. FWHCP utilizeslower half of RFC1918 10. LH. X. X addresses and other home networks (not 1394) use upperhalf 10. UH. X. X.Preferably, the FWHCP server agent is built-in to any device that can be a client (control initiator). Where there are several client devices connected to the 1394 network, only the client device with the highest Global Unique Identification(GUID) operates. GUID comprises a numberbuilt-in to the interface. If there are multiple FWHCP agentsavailable on the 1394WEB network then there is an initial self-election process to determine the one that will operate and all others remain quiet. The highestGUID will operate. In other versions, highest bit-reversed-GUID can be used.

A device interfacing to a non-1394 network supports a ROM extension leaf of IP addresses on the non-1394 network. This allows inclusion of theIP addresses on the non-1394 network in the 1394top-level GUIs (e. g.,FIGS. 4A B, GUIs 202,204). Control data bits in the 1394 ROM space are used to control the operation of three configuration agents: (1) 1394 Self ID count, (2)

IP configuration FWHCP, and (3) Ul description generation described further below.

Initially 1394 Self-ID count discovers the existence of devices. After a bus reset (caused by power up/down or device attachment/detachment) 1394 software in the device observes the automatic configuration process (1394 self ID cycles) for the purpose of counting the number devices. This is a normal part of 1394 software for any 1394 device. Then, IP Configuration FWHCP (the one self-elected FWHCP) probes the discovered devices and checks their builtin IP address. Discovered duplicate (colliding) IP addresses are disabled and a new address is assigned to the device. Then,UI description generation agent (UI or other devices), reads all 1394WEB device IP addresses and generates a top-level device directory Graphic User Interface file in HTML of top-level icon pages from each device later rendered by a Web browser for User discovery of devices for control.

According to the present invention each device in the 1394 network 400 can generate its owntop-level network Ul description 250(FIG. 9C). The Ul description 250 is used by a presentation engine such as the browser 200 in a client device to generate and display a top level directory page such as page 220 inFIGS. 5-6. After the 1394 Self-ID agent has enumerated all devices connected to the 1394 network 300, thetop-level Ul description 250 is generatedseparately by all Ul devices (and non-Ul devices as desired). A device (e. g., DTV) can select a more prominent (e. g., larger) icon to represent that device, and make the entire GUI 220 with a different look. This technique provides substantially more reliable operation than a centrally generated GUI for operation of all device, because each device can generate its own Ul description 250 and display a GUI (e. g., top level page 220) based thereon without dependence on anotherdevice. In each Ul description 250, device icon and

As such, advantageously, auseful layer of abstraction is provided to allow use of alternative file names and types for e. g. identification graphics in the network devices without need for change in the top-level description 250 generated in each device. The name text is also placed in an HTML description 202,204 (NAME, HTM is in pages 202,204), allowing a user to configure the name text at a device e. g. DTV to change to e. g., DTV-BED2 through one of the device GUI pages 220. As such, the page 220 is displayed as the Browser is launched after a reset. The user sees and clicks DVCRICON graphic, whereby

DVCR top level control GUI 202 is fetched (with Play button etc.). User clicks one of the buttons e. g. "Configure Device NAME" which is another GUI (of hierarchy of control pages for DVCR) with a large selection of different names.

User clicks one name out of the lists of names provided e. g. "Master Bedroom DVCR".

Software on the device changes the file names so that the file named NAME. HTM contains the text"Master Bedroom DVCR" (theold default NAME. HTM file that contained DVCR is changed to some other name).

Appearance of the GUI 220 is more stable in the event of bad citizen' devices having too much or oversized text or oversized logos. In this case the frames isolate the problem and prevent the bad items from adversely affecting the appearance of the entiretop-level GUI 220.

< Device Discovery Architecture >

Referring toFIGS. 9A-C, 10,11 example functional blocks and connections to data and control bits and flowchart of an embodiment of a system architecture 400 for the aforementioned discovery process are shown. The system 400 comprises five primaryelements: (1) 1394 non-volatile memory space(IEEE1212R ROM) 402 for configuration data and control data bit storage; (2) 1394 Device Discovery Agent (1394DDA) 404; (3) IP Address Configuration Agent (FWHCP) 406; (4) Ul Description Generation Agent 408; and (5) GUI Generation and run-time environment 410 (e. g., Web Browser 200in FIG. 2). Further, FIG. 10 shows an example flow diagram for the DDA and

FWHCP agents in system 400 operating in connection with the functional blocksin FIGS. 9A-C. And, FIG. 10 shows an example flow diagram for the UIDGA agent in system 400 operating in connection with the functional blocks in FIGS.

9A-C.

Referring to FIGS. 9A and 10 all devices include the 1394 device discovery agent (1394DDA) 404 to enumerate the devices on the 1394 bus, after a reset, and to write the value into the local 1394 ROM space 402 for communicating the value to other functional agents (steps 500,502). For synchronizing (inhibiting) commencement of other configuration agents, the 1394DDA agent 404 also sets the configuration operating control bits. The discoveryagent/mechanism can use means, other than the ROM space, to communicate information between the configuration agents that are local to one device and where the information does not need to be seen by other devices.

< 1394 ROM Data in all Devices >

All devices in the network 300 include the following information relevant to the discovery and IP address agents 404 and 406, respectively, forthe 1394 WEB in the 1394 configuration ROM 402: (1) Built-in 64 bit GUID (Global Unique ID, in 1394 specification); (2) Built-in IP address from the RFC 1918 private address space in the 254.254'.

Manufacturers canselect a value from the GUID such that chance of collision is minimized. The upper portion of the private address space (i. e., 10.128.1.1 to 10.254.254.254) is reserved for devices on bridged networks; (3) Assigned IP address in the 254.254' (assigned by operating FWHCP agent 406); (4) IP address extension leaf for IP devices on bridged networks; (5) Assigned Count of 1394 devices (assigned by 1394DDA agent 404); (6) Control/status bits to indicate Configuration-in-Progress

Synchronization control for 1394 Device Discovery Agent 404, and to indicate IP-Address configuration (The control bits indicate the configuration is in progress and therefore the values, in ROM data other than the control bits, for 1394DDA and IP address are not checked or not written and thereforeshould not be used). The bits further indicate which IP address is valid (assigned or built-in), and whether an FWHCP server agent 406 is present in the device; (7) HTTP web server to allow files in the device's file space to be accessed remotely; and (8) device information 202,204 including actual con', name and logo'HTML files and other referenced graphic files accessible through the Web Server. The above summarized information is detailed in the 1394 ROM space description below.

< IEEE 1212 Configuration ROM >

The content of the general 1394ROM structure 402 is specified in

IEEE1212r,IEEE1212 and IEC61883. The ROM structure 402 is a hierarchy of information blocks, wherein the blocks higher in the hierarchy point to the

blocks beneath them. The location of the initial blocks is fixedwhile other entries are vendor dependent, but can be specified by entries within the higher blocks.

and source devices such as DVCRs, STBs, etc. There may be several other structures required based on other protocols to which each device conforms. Table 3 includes information for a device which also complies with the IEC61883 protocol. The Root directory contains pointers to a Model Directory and three Unit-Directory entries (IEC61883, EIA-775 and 1394WEB), to indicate that the device supports EIA775 aswell as 1394WEB protocols. The Root directory entries are useful to other 1394 devices to discover the protocols and software(also called services) supported by this 1394 device.

```
< Table 3-Configuration ROM >
Offset (Base address FFFF F000 0000) Bus info block
Offset
EMI39.1
<tb> 04 <SEP> 00. <SEP> 6 <SEP> 04 <SEP> crc~length <SEP> rom~crc~value
<tb> 04 <SEP> 04, <SEP> 6"1394"
<tb> flagsreservedcyc~clk~accmax~recReserve040816 <SEP>
<tb> <SEP> d
<tb> 04chip~id~hinode~vendor~id <SEP>
<tb> 104101, <SEP> chipidk)
<tb>
Wherein, 04 0C16 and 04 1016 are also known as the 64 bit GUID or
Global Unique ID.
Root directory
Offset
EMI40.1
<tb> Root~lengthCRC041416 <SEP>
<tb> <SEP> 0316model~vendor~id
<tb> <SEP> offset8116vendor~name~textual~descriptor <SEP>
<tb> <SEP> 0C16node~capabilities
<tb> <SEP> 8D, <SEP> 6 <SEP> node~unique~id <SEP> offset
<tb> <SEP> D116 <SEP> Unit~Directory <SEP> offset <SEP> (IEC <SEP> 61883)
<tb> <SEP> D1, <SEP> 6UnitDirectory <SEP> offset <SEP> (EIA-775)
<tb> <SEP> D1, <SEP> 6 <SEP> Unit~Directory <SEP> offset <SEP> (1394WEB)
<tb> <SEP> Optional
<tb> xxModel~DirectoryoffsetC316 <SEP>
The directory is shown in Table 5. This directory is unit referenced by the Unit Directory offset, in the Root Directory (i.
e., Table 3). In the Unit~SW~Version field, the least significant bit specifies AV/C (0) as specified in IEC61883.
< Table 5-IEC~61883 Unit Directory >
Unit~Directory(IEC~61883)
EMI40.2
<tb> directory <SEP> length <SEP> CRC
<tb>1216 <SEP> Unit-Spec-ID <SEP> (1394TA <SEP> = <SEP> 00 <SEP> AO <SEP> 2D, <SEP> 6)
<tb>1316 <SEP> Unit~SW~Version <SEP> (first <SEP> pass <SEP> key <SEP> = <SEP> 01, <SEP> 6)
<tb> otherfields#....#possibly <SEP>
TheEIA-775 Unit Directory is shown in Table 6. The followingEIA-775 specific information appears in theEIA-775
Unit Directory.
< Table 6-EIA-775 Unit Directory >
EMI41.1
<tb> Directory <SEP> length <SEP> CRC
<tb>(EIA-775=00506816)1216Unit~specification~ID <SEP>
<tb>(01010016)1316Unit~software~version <SEP>
<tb> .... <SEP> < < possibly <SEP> other <SEP> fields > >
<tb> ......
<tb>
```

The Unit specification ID specifies the identity of the organization responsible for the architectural interface of the device and the specification. In this example case, the directory and identity value=00506816 refers to the EIA as the responsible body and the EIA-775 control architecture specification.

First 0116

Second octet Major Version Number (currently01, 6)

Third octet Minor Version Number (currently 16)

The 1394WEB Unit Directory is shown in Table 7a. The following 1394WEB specific information appears in the 1394WEB Unit Directory.

< Table 7a-1394WEB Unit Directory > EMI42.1

<tb> Directorylength <SEP> CRC

<tb>12, <SEP> 6UmtspecificationJD <SEP> (1394WEB <SEP> = <SEP> OOXXXX, <SEP> 6)

<tb>(01010016)1316Unit~software~version <SEP>

<tb> 3816 <SEP> Discovery~control~bits

<tb> 3916Assigned~Count~of~1394~devices

<tb> 3A16IP~Address~Built~in

<tb> 3B16IP~Address~Assigned

<tb> <SEP> IP <SEP> Address <SEP> Extension <SEP> Leaf

<tb> otherfields#--16#possibly <SEP>

<tb>

The Unit~specification~ID specifies the identity of the organization responsible for the architectural interface of the unit and the specification. In this example case the directory and identity value=00XXXX16 refers to the responsible body and the 1394WEB control architecture specification.

The Unit software version designates the 1394WEB revisionlevel supported by the device. The format is shown in Table 8.

-Unit-software-versioncoding > < Table8First octet 01, 6

Second octet Major Version Number (currently0116)

Third octet Minor Version Number(currently 0016) < Discovery~control~bits (38, 6) >

Keyvalue (38, 6) permitted by the IEEE 1212R specification section 8.8 for the private use by the owner of the directory and architecture is used for the Discovery~control~bits immediate value.

< Table 9 Discovery~control~bits >

FWHCP Configuration Which IP

Server operating. Do not use address?

Agent (if True)X Yes=1 1394 Dev.!P-Assignd1Bui

Count Addresstt-in0 31 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 (LSB)

These are control bits in 1394 ROM space 402 accessible by local and remote device. The control bits are used by the IP address configuration agent 406 and the User Interface description generation agent 408 as described further below.

In one embodiment of the invention, said control bits provide the following information:

Bit 0-Which IP address-Indicates which IP address is used or is in-use i.e, the Bulit-In address (=FALSE) or Assigned Address (=TRUE). This is set by the operating IP configuration agent FWHCP 406.

Bits 1,2-Configuration Operating Do not use-When set indicate that the 1394 device discovery and also, seperately, the IP configuration agents 404 and 406, respectively, are operating and therefore the values referred to are invalid as they can change or are not yet written. These bits are set by the local (device) 1394DDA agent 404. The 1394DDA agent 404 clears the 1394 Dev.

Count bit and the operating FWHCP agent 406 clears the IP-address bit.

Bit3-Presence of FWHCP Server Agent 406-Is set if the device has an operable FWHCP agent 406. This bit and GUID are used by the FWHCP agents 406 to determine which FWHCP agent 406 will operate.

-AssignedimmediatevalueAssigned-Count-of-1394-devices(3916) of the count of 1394 devices in the network 300. The count is made as the 1394 interface goes though itsself-ID cycles. The 1394 device discovery agent 404 generates the value, which is saved in ROM space 403 for subsequent use by the IP and UI configuration agents 406 and 408, respectively.

IP~Address~Built~In (3A16)-Assigned Immediate Value. This address is assigned at manufacture time and built-in to the device. If this Built-in address cannot be used, an alternative address can be saved in the Assigned address space and the control bit set to indicate such.

IP~Address~Assigned (3B16)-Assigned Immediate Value. If identical

IP addresses are detected, the IP address configuration agent FWHCP 406 assigns this address to prevent collision. Further, the control bit is set to indicate such.

many

IP addresses as required. The address of the communications device itselfshould not beincluded in the table.

< Table 101 P~Address~Extension Leaf > EMI44.1

Leaf <SEP> Length-1 <SEP> (n) <SEP> 16 <SEP> | <SEP> CRC-16 <SEP> 16 <tb> IPAddress <SEP> 1 <tb>

IP Address n

In regards to Control word for Discovery Control Bits, use of a ROM entry for the actual Discovery Control Bits word as defined herein works but is an example implementation. As ROM is not designed to be written efficiently (i. e.,

ROM areas have to be erased and writing them is slow relative to other hardware e. g. register).

Registers are provided in the 1394 hardware for data that must be written to frequently. In another version, a 1394 Register can be used for the Discovery control bits control word. Registers are in a space also addressable by other devices, whereby another device can look up in the ROM the address of the Register and then write to that Register.

Referring Figure 9B, one or more devices include an IP address configuration agent (FWHCP) Generation agent. The UI description generation agent (UIDGA) 408 utilizes information including control bits defined inthe 1394 ROM space 402 and other information (e. g., for determining which FWHCP operates is the Global Unique

ID (GUID) ofBus~Info~Block of Table 3) for determining which IP configuration agent 406 (if multiple in the network) operates, synchronizing commencement and for access to the in-useIP addresses. Any device may have and operate aUIDGA for making theHN~Directory page (top-level discovery page). After the IP addresses are configured UIDGA reads the addresses to make theHN~Directory page. In each client device, when UI description generation is complete, the GUI generation and run-time environment 410 (e. g., Web Browser 200 in FIG. 2) uses the UI description HTML file 250 to access all devices'HTTP file space for icons, names and logos (Icon. HTM, Name. HTM and Logo. HTM are contained in pages 204, and 204) to generate the full top-level GUI 220 for display in that client device. Web Browser uses HTML file 250 to render the actual GUI graphics, in the process accessing files from the devices e. g.

Icon. HTM, Name. HTM and Logo. HTM and in turn accessing anyadditional files these files reference e. g. ICON.GIF and LOGO.GIF.

< 1394 Device Discovery Agent(1394DDA) >

Referring to FIGS. 9A-C, 10 as discussed, each 1394 WEB device in the network 300 can include the device discovery agent 404. The device discovery agent 404 enumerates the 1394 devices in 1394 address space connected to the 1394 bus, wherein the raw discovery is performed in 1394 hardware. The Self ID and Physical Node Number Assignment and the steps leading to it is the basic discovery process performed by the interface hardware/firmware. All devices monitor the Self ID cycles and make a note of the existence of 1394 devices. This is a part of 1394 software for any 1394 device: (1) Reset-Bus reset propagates to all interfaces, on device power-up, device attachment and device detachment, (2) Tree Identification-Transforms a simple net topology into

device detachment, (2) Tree Identification-Transforms a simple net topology into a tree, toestablish a ROOT which is master for certain functions: Bus Cycle

Master, Highest priority in arbitration for bus time, (3) Self Identification-AssignsPhysical Node number (address) and also exchange speed capabilities with neighbors. Highest numbered node with both Contender Bit and Link-on Bit is

Isochronous Resource Manager.

The discovery agent 404 writes the final count value of the devices to the 1394 ROM space to communicate it to other agents. The device discovery agent 404 is the first software agent to execute after a 1394 reset cycle, and control bits (Discovery Control Bits 2 and 1, Configuration Operating: 1394DDA, and IP Address) are used to delay other agents, including the configuration agents 406 and 408, from execution until the discovery agent 404 has finished execution.

In one embodiment, the 1394DDA agent 404 in each device performs the steps 500,502 including: (1) setting synchronization control bits (i. e., '1394DDA in progress' and 'IP configuration in progress' bits) in the device's own 1394

ROM space 402 to indicate that the 1394DDA in progress and IP configuration is in progress (IP configuration will not be in progress if 1394 DDA is executing) and that the values of 1394 device count and IP address are not valid, whereby said control bits inhibit other agents (e. g., 408) from operating prematurely; as such the 1394 DDA executes, then an elected FWHCP executes, and then (usually for UI device) UIDGA executes; (2) counting the number of 1394 selfidentity sequences after a 1394 Reset to discover the number of devices and effectively their

Alternative Architecture for Configuration with IP Address list in network communication (bridge) device is possible. For example, the IP address list of

IP addresses of devices on a bridged (e. g.,non-1394 network) canalternatively be examined at the IP configuration stage by the FWHCP agent 406 rather than only at the UIDGA stage by the UIDGA agent 408. This allows the FWHCP agent 406 to detect and correct address collisions and therefore allow operation without having two separately defined address ranges, one for the 1394 network 300 and one for the non-1394 network 119. Correction of address collision can be accomplished by modifying the address of accolliding 1394 device as the bridged network IP address list cannot be modified by the aforementioned agents 406,408 for the 1394 network 300. Configuration is more reliable if the

FWHCP agent 406 can check the addresses in the bridged network 119 for collision prior to allowing the addresses used on the 1394 network 300.

< IP Address Configuration Agent (FWHCP Agent) >

Referring to FIGS 9A-C, 10 the IP Address Configuration software agent (FWHCP) 406, operates to provide Fixed IP address management and to detect and correct IP address clashes in the mass manufactured 1394 devices. All 1394WEB UI devices include, and other devices can include, an FWHCP agent 406. Only one FWHCP agent 406 operates in the network however. The 1394DDA 404 agent is the first software agent to execute after a 1394 reset cycle, and as aforementioned the 1394DDA 404 agent sets the 1394DDA in progress and IP configuration in progress bits to delay the FWHCP agent 406 until the 1394DDA agent 404 has executed to completion.

In one embodiment, the IP Address configuration agent 406 in a device performs steps including polling the 1394DDA configuration operation control bit (i. e., the 1394DDA in progress bit) to determine if the 1394DDA configuration software agent 404 has executed to completion. If so, then the FWHCP agent 406 uses the count of devices determined by the 1394 DDA agent 404, and reads GUID's and Control Words from every device (step 504) to determine which device in the network 300 is selected to execute its FWHCP agent 406 (step 506). The selected device is one with an FWHCP agent 406 that finds it has the highest GUID (step 508). All other FWHCP agents 406 in other devices remain dormant (step 510). The operating FWHCP agent 406 reads the in-use (active) IP address (determined by Discovery—control—bits BIT 0) from each local node (e. g. units present on the interface, host) and listed (step 512). In one version, the software agent makes a list for saving the IP addresses to an 'Array' as they are read (steps 514-518). The list will be in memory (RAM or DRAM) under the control of the compiler and OS. In-use status is determined by a bit setting in the device, which indicates whether the built-in or assigned address is in-use. In Table 7the) Paddressassigned and) Paddressbuittin are in the 1394Web Unit Directory.

The operating FWHCP agent 406 examines said list for collision among

IP addresses listed therein (other collision detection and resolution methods can also be used) (steps 520-522). If a collision is detected, the FWHCP agent alters the colliding addresses by e. g. substituting the least significant 6 bits of

IP address for their 6 bit node address (step 524). Only the minimum number of alterations are performed to relieve the collision. If one of the colliding addresses is already an assigned address, then that address is altered in preference to the colliding built-in address by e. g. incrementing the 6 bit substitute value and re-checking until the collision is resolved. The FWHCP agent 406 writes the altered value back to the device and the control bit (Discovery-Control-Bits: Bit 0) is set to indicate that the assigned IP address is in-use, and thebuilt-in default is no longer in-use (step 526). The process is repeated for each IP address (step 528). After the collision resolution process, the operating FWIICP agent 406 accesses each device in turn and sets the IP configuration in-progress' bits in each device to e. g. 'false' to indicate that the indicated IP address is valid.

< Ul Description Generation Agent >

In conventional WWW operation, users access the same top level page.

Referring toFIGS. 4B, 7 and 9-11, according to an aspect of the present invention however, allUI devices (e. g., devices capable of displaying user interfaces) include an UI description generation agent(UIDGA) 408 to independently generate atop-level UI page 220 for control of the devices on the local network (e. g., network 100, network 300, etc.) by users. In one example, a client device (e. g., PC) dynamically generates alocally saved default page 220 for user control of devices connected to the network 100. This allows each UI device (e. g., DTV 102) to generate a different view 220 of the home network e. g. with a larger more prominent

Ul device (e. g., DTV 102) to generate a different view 220 of the home network e. g. with a larger more prominent icon for that Ul's devices displayed. As such, the user is readily made aware of which Ul device is right here' (in front of the user) or in the case of accessex ternal to the home, no device is right here'. A device without a Ul can generate a Ul for another device but is unaware of type of device (e. g., Cable Modern generates Ul of HN devices for user external to the home). In this case the actual Ul device is unknown. Therefore no particular device is prominent. in the GUI. Further, manufacturers of devices connected to the network 100 can provide their own GUI design 202,204 in each device as desired. In addition later, improved Browser and Web technology designs need not behampered by existing technology.

Non-UI devices, particularly those devices performing a gateway function, can also include a UI Description Generation agent 408 to generate top-level

GUI descriptions 250, without including GUI Generation and Run-Time processes 410 (e. g., Web Browser 200) to generate and display GUIs 220.

device local private IP address.

UI devices execute the following software processes to generate and display views 220 of the network 100/300: (1) 1394 Device Discovery Agent 404 described above, (2) UI Description Generation Agent(UIDGA) 408, and (3) GUI Generation and Run-Time (e. g., Web Browser 200) process 410. Referring to

FIG. 11, in one embodiment, aUIDGA agent 408 in a device performs steps including polling theIP address configuration bits in the device's own 1394 ROM

402 to ensure completion of the FWHCP agent 406, prior to accessing any furtherIP information (step 600). Upon completion of FWHCP agent 406, using the count of devices generated by the 1394DDA agent 404, the UIDGA agent 408 then accesses the control word in each device currently connected to the network, to determine the settings for the configuration operating false, and inuse IP addresses bits (the UIDGA agent 408 makes the top-level HTML page, HN~Directory page, 220 shown by e. g., in FIGS. 5-6). Thereafter, the UIDGA agent 408 reads the actual inuse IP address value, and builds a complete list of the IP addresses of the devices currently connected to the network 300. The

IP address listincludes information (e. g., Icon, Logo, Name, etc.) from every device, and is written in HTML by using the IP address of each device.

Before it can include the addresses, the UIDGA 408 finds the address of each device by accessing each device and checking to see which address is in use by reading Table 9, Discovery—control—bit, control bit (Bit 0). Then UIDGA 408 reads Table 7 Address either Built in or Assigned. For devices that communicate to bridged networks, as determined by the presence of the extension IP address list entry in that device's 1394 ROM 402, the UIDGA agent 408 reads the extension IP-addresses from the list(IP—Address—Extension—Leaf) to allow those devices to be included in the GUI 220. The entry BC(IP—Address—Extension—Leaf) contains a reference link address that points to the actual data leaf. Devices on the attached bridged network are only included in the IP—Address—Extension—Leaf list if they also support the 1394WEB type of service i. e. they have Web Server and Icon. HTM etc and Control pages ('index. htm).

The UIDGA agent 408 reads the IP address list (step 602) and generates the top-level network UI description 250 (FIG. 9C) in e. g. HTML (e. g., Appendix 1) using the IP address list(UIDGA outputs theHN~Directory, top-level network Ul page, HTML file) (step 604). The UIDGA agent 408 uses the IP Addresses in the hypertext links to each device for the icon. htm, name. htm and logo. htm files.UIDGA writes an HTML file including the references to each discovered device's HTML page i. e. ICON. HTM, NAME. HTM, LOGO. HTM (e. g., Appendix 2,3,4). The UIDGA agent 408 then uses HTML files to reference items including the icon andlogo graphics files and name data, rather than including the raw icon, gif or logo, gif and raw name text in the toplevel Ul description 250 (step 606). Thisallows said items to be changed by the corresponding device to reflect current status, customized by the manufacturer or configured by the user at the device, without causing any change in the top-level HTML UI description 250 in the controlling Ul device. Though one graphic per device is shown in the example GUI pages 220 (FIGS. 5-6), customization allows inclusion of more than one graphic file referenced by ICON. HTM or LOGO. HTM and more text in he NAME. HTM. In one embodiment, HTML frames are utilized to implement the The GUI generation process 410 (e. g., Web Browser 200) utilizes the UI description 250 in e. g. HTML to generate GUI pages 220 on UI devices. In one example, to providekeyboard-less operation for consumerelectronics devices (e. g., DTV) the Browser 200 at start-updefaults to reading and rendering alocally generated top-level-devices. html description 250 to generate the network top-level control GUI 220. Locally as used here means in the same device (a Ul device having aUIDGA that generates the device's own HN Directory (toplevel) GUI of the network devices). HN Directory, Top level Network UI and

Discovery page are the same. For personal computers (PC) with keyboard this need not be the default. For CE devices, launch of the Browser 200 is delayeduntil after completion of the UIDGA default page 250 generation by the UIDGA agent 408. In the event that UIDGA agent 408 cannot complete its tasks, then the Browser 200 displays an alternative UI page 220 showing a network configuration error occurred (e. g., "Unable to generate the HN-Directory Page because of xxxxxx. Try disconnecting device xxxxxxx. Network configuration error number xxxxxx occurred. Contact service Tel service xxx-xxxx or

Web service http://www.service.com.")

To generate the GUI 220, the Browser 200 fetches the icon. htm', 'name.htm' and'logo. htm' files from device information 202,204 in each referenced device (i. e., in the UI description, where for example ICON. HTM is in the HN~Directory Page HTML file) as defined by the HTMLUI description 250.

The contents of these pages 202,204 (e. g. the icon graphic) need not be static and can be altered dynamically to reflect device status change, or after user customization. In order to display the most currenttop-level page 220, the Browser 200 does not cache the icon. htm in it name in htm in its less to determine if the device has made any changes to the HTML files 202,204 it holds. HTTP Conditional get is used for checking the status of controlled device. Depending on the status code returned, the Browser 200 will either read from its cache or fetch a fresh or updated copy the HTML file 202,204 from the devices. The HWW GUI display is not affected unless there is any change of the status of the controlled device.

The browser 200 does not attempt to display the top-level HN directory until it has been completely generated. If the HTML 250 is not generated within some reasonable amount of time, the browser displays an alternate page. If a network configuration error is the source ofthe problem, the alternate page might provide sometechnical support or user diagnostic assistance.

network 100. It is also possible for device icons to be updated to reflect changes in their device's operating state. As such, browsersimplemented by EIA-775.1 devices use HTTP conditional get requests to determine whether or not fresh copies of web pages or graphics are retrieved from the server.

In this aspect, the present invention provides a User Interface description where user discovery of devices is thus madeentirely with references (i. e. in the abstract), where the references are containers for the discovery information (e. g., text and/or graphics) of each device and resident on each device. Each container includes actual textual information and/or references to one or more graphics formatted information files where each file may include one or more images and/or text. Use of the reference containers allows each device to choose its preferred Ul content or graphics format or alter its UI content to be displayed (by changing the text or graphic information referred to) without need to have the UI description page altered in any way. Therefore, communication of changes with the generating agent software of the DiscoveryUI description is not required. In one version, devices reference their e. g.ICON and LOGO graphics files indirectly using HTML files enabled by creating the network Toplevel description using HTML frames. Similarly the device name that is displayed under the icon is represented by NAME HTML file. HTML files are used to reference e. g. the icon and logo graphics files and name data rather than include the raw icon, gif or logo, gif and raw name text. Thisallows the item to be changed to reflect current status, customized by the manufacturer or user configured at the device without causing any change in thetop-level HTML description. This level of abstractionallows the Top-level UI description to be always the same regardless of the graphics ICON and LOGO file names and types and NAME text to be displayed. Also the device may use different, multiple or dynamically change the graphics files and text displayed in the Toplevel GUI without the change needing to be communicated to the UIDGA. The change is automatically included whenever the GUI is redisplayed. Use of frames also stabilizes the GUI display in the event of bad citizen devices using non-displayable graphics or text as the error is confined to the particular frame and doesn't affect the whole GUI.

The change is automatically included whenever the GUI is redisplayed.

Referring to Appendices 1-4, illustrative examples for the following are provided: (1)Top-Level Page description 250 (Appendix 1); (2) Background. htm (Appendix 2); (3)Icon. htm (Appendix 4); and (4) Name. htm (Appendix 4).

Although the present invention has been described in considerable detail with regard to the preferred versions thereof, other versions are possible.

Therefore, the appended claims should not be limited to the descriptions of the preferred versions contained herein.

IndustrialApplicability

The method and system for generating a user interface in a plurality of multiple devices connected to the network system for controlling devices that are connected to a network, according to the present invention can be applied to home networks having multi-media devices connected. The multi-media devices can include PC, VCR, Camcorder, DVD, and HDTV, etc..

```
Appendix 1-Top-Level Page Example < HTML > < HEAD > < TITLE > HN DevicesPage < /TITLE > < /HEAD > <
FRAMESET ROWS="2%, 47%, 2%, 22.5%, 2%, 22.5%, 2%"border=0 color=black >
< NOFRAMES > Sorry does not supportframes < /NOFRAMES >
< FRAMESETROWS="100%, 0%" >
< FRAMESRC="background. htm"SCROLLING="no"NORESIZE >
</FRAMESET >
< FRAMESET COLS="1.2%, 23.5%, 1.2%, 48.2%, 1.2%, 23.5%, 1.2%" >
< FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%" >
< FRAMESRC="background. htm"SCROLLING="no"NORESIZE >
</FRAMESET>
< FRAMESETROWS="48%, 4%, 48%" >
< FRAMESET ROWS="73%, 27%" >
< FRAME 1.1/icon.htm"SCROLLING="no"
NORESIZE >
< FRAME 1.1/name.htm"SCROLLING="no"
NORESIZE >
</FRAMESET >
< FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%">
< FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no"NORESIZE >
</FRAMESET >
< FRAMESET ROWS="73%,27%" >
< FRAME 1.10/icon.htm" SCROLLING="no"
NORESIZE >
< FRAMESRC="http://10. 1.1.10/name. htm"
SCROLLING="no"NORESIZE >
</FRAMESET>
</FRAMESET>
< FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%" >
```

```
NORESIZE >
</FRAMESET >
< FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%" >
< FRAME SRC="background.htm" SCROLLING="no"NORESIZE >
</FRAMESET>
< FRAMESET ROWS="48%, 4%, 48%" >
< FRAMESET ROWS="73%, 27%" >
< FRAMESRC="http://10.1.229.1/icon. htm"SCROLLING="no"
NORESIZE >
< FRAMESRC="http://10.1.229.1/name.
</FRAMESET>
< FRAMESET ROWS="100%,0%" >
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</FRAMESET>
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